

UCLA Faculty Association Blog - First
Quarter 2017



Blog of UCLA Faculty Association. All audio, video, and animated gifs are omitted. Go to original for omitted features.

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George Ade Probably Got It About Right

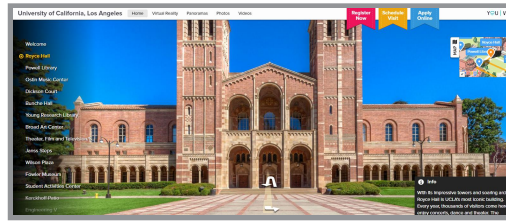
Sunday, January 01, 2017



George Ade, who wrote at the turn of the last century, got it about right: (His moral is at the end of the tale at the link below.)

If you can't wait to get back...

Sunday, January 01, 2017



If you can't wait to get back on campus, you can, of course, go there even though it is largely closed. Or, particularly since it is a bit chilly today, you can do a virtual tour from home using:

<http://www.youvisit.com/ucla>

It's a bit tricky to use. Basically, you click on the tip of the arrow. Depending on your internet connection, it may be slow to respond.

UCLA History: Water View

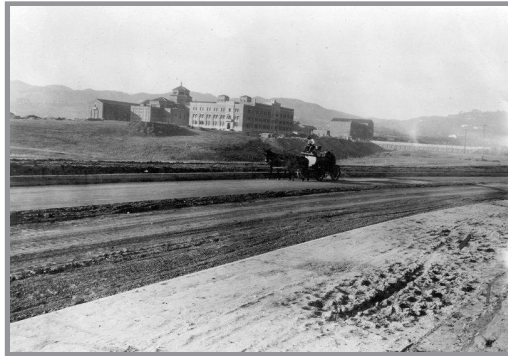
Monday, January 02, 2017



The campus in 1929

UCLA History: Mule

Tuesday, January 03, 2017



Mule-drawn cart near UCLA in 1928 as Westwood campus is constructed

Going Up?

Tuesday, January 03, 2017



EdSource has a piece about upcoming discussions at CSU and UC about tuition increases. There may be discussion at the January Regents meeting.

Early skirmishes have begun already on tentative proposals to increase tuition at California's two massive public university systems for the first time in six years. Serious debate and protests – likely to be bruising at points – are expected over the next few months as financial and political impacts are weighed.

With the state budget in flux, both the 23-campus California State University (CSU) and the ten-campus University of California (UC) say nothing is set in stone about ending the lengthy tuition freeze for in-state undergraduates. But administrators warn that rising costs of pay hikes and pension plans and such academic initiatives as improving graduation rates may force tuition hikes for fall 2017: as much as \$270 or 5% at CSU from what is now \$5,472 a year and \$300 or about 2.5% at UC from the current \$12,294.

Political observers predict a series of battles as the proposals proceed through the universities' governing boards and the Legislature in hearings, votes and closed-door negotiations that are expected to start in January and possibly continue until June...

H. D. Palmer, a spokesman for Brown's Department of Finance, said it is too early to predict what the governor will propose for higher education funding and how that will be balanced with other needs such as health care and the environment. "At this point, the governor has yet to finish all the decisions he is going to send to the Legislature," he said. But according to Palmer, if there are tuition hikes and new funding to the universities, the governor will insist those are linked to improved efficiency at the universities, hastening time to graduation and bolstering course availability.

Full story at <https://edsource.org/2017/debate-underway-on-csu-students-protesting/574525>

The other way

Tuesday, January 03, 2017



At the end of each quarter, we provide an alternative mode of reading the blog, essentially as an online book. Of course, that mode omits any trace of the audios, videos, and animated gif images that appear in the regular blog. Those elements are only available in the original format.

The book format can be read at the link below:

Upcoming

Wednesday, January 04, 2017



It's hard to imagine that the topic below won't be part of the agenda at the Regents meeting of January 25-26. Given UC's role in the national labs, and the position taken by Gov. Brown, some discussion seems likely:

In the two decades since Ben Santer helped write a landmark international report linking global warming and human activity, he's been criticized by politicians, accused of falsifying his data and rewarded with a dead rat on his doorstep.

He describes it as "background noise," and he tries to tune it out as he presses forward with his research from a dim office the size of a walk-in closet at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory east of San Francisco. But the presidential election could crank up the volume for Santer and his colleagues: As federal government scientists, their new boss will be President-elect Donald Trump, who once described global warming as a hoax.

"Imagine, if you will, that you devoted your entire career to doing one thing. Doing it as well as you possibly can," Santer said. "And someone comes along and says everything you've done is worthless."

Trump's victory sent shockwaves through the environmental community, but fears are particularly heightened among scientists who are employed by the federal government or rely on the data it generates. There are concerns that younger generations may avoid working for U.S. agencies or decide not to focus on climate change because they don't see a future working in the field...

Full story at <http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-climate-scientists-donald-trump-20161230-story.html>

Follow Up (with emphasis on UP)

Wednesday, January 04, 2017



We noted in an earlier post that the Regents might well have a tuition increase brewing.* Now we have confirmation:

The University of California unveiled a proposal Wednesday for the first tuition increase in six years, saying booming enrollment growth and reduced state support have left campuses scrambling to pay for more faculty, course offerings, classrooms and financial aid.

Under the proposal, tuition would grow to \$11,502 for the 2017-18 school year — a 2.5% increase of \$282. The student services fee would increase to \$1,128, a \$54 increase. But financial aid would cover the increases for two-thirds of the university's California resident students, who number about 175,500, said UC spokeswoman Dianne Klein.

Nonresident undergraduates would face a total increase of \$1,668. They would pay the same increases in base tuition and student fees but also a 5% hike in their supplemental tuition, which would rise \$1,332 — from \$26,682 currently to \$28,014 next year.

"We're at the point where if we don't do this, if we don't invest, the quality of education is going to suffer," Klein said. "We want these students to have the same or better experience than students who came before them."...

Full story at <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-uc-tuition-increase-20170103-story.html>

* <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2017/01/going-up.html>

Strike tomorrow through Tuesday

Thursday, January 05, 2017



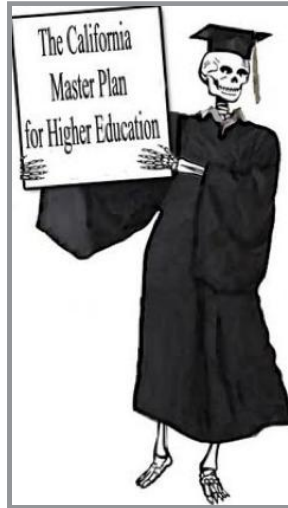
The email below is in circulation at UCLA:

As previously announced, Teamsters Local 2010 has asked its UCLA skilled trades members to strike at UCLA facilities beginning at 12 AM on Friday 1/6 through 11:59 PM Tuesday 1/10 . In addition, Teamsters Local 2010 represents clerical and administrative support workers and has announced a unit strike on Tuesday 1/10 .

Please be aware that deliveries from suppliers and outgoing shipments may be disrupted during this time, whether via third party carriers or suppliers' proprietary fleets. Please consider the potential impact on perishable and other purchases during this period, and whether purchases (or outgoing shipments) can be delayed until normal operations resume.

Reports of Master Plan's death may have been premature

Thursday, January 05, 2017



From time to time, we have noted erosion of the Master Plan. CSU gets (limited) doctoral degree authority. Community colleges get (limited) 4-year degrees. But now a new LAO report suggests the end of a CSU doctoral program.

Specifically, LAO suggests the legislature let the law giving CSU's authority to run a doctoral program - Doctor of Nursing Practice - sunset. The LAO report cites three reasons:

- The state is No Longer Facing Nursing Shortage
- CSU Continues to Report Trouble With Attracting Doctorally Prepared Nursing Faculty
- Only a Few DNP Graduates Helping CSU With Regular Hiring Needs

It suggests - guess what! - that if CSU is having trouble finding faculty for its non-doctoral nursing programs, there is no need for CSU to produce them. It could just pay better and attract qualified candidates.

You can find the LAO report at: <http://lao.ca.gov/reports/2017/3521/Doctor-of-Nursing-Programs-010517.pdf>

You could look at it this way or that

Friday, January 06, 2017



Nanette Asimov, the higher ed reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle, noted some intertemporal inconsistency in what UC said its tuition was (and will be if the planned increase goes through):

The University of California announced a proposal this week to raise tuition next fall — but managed to make the price hike look like a price break.

For five years, UC has said its annual tuition for California undergraduates was \$12,192, a figure widely reported by news outlets, including The Chronicle, and used by state lawmakers, state auditors and UC officials themselves.

But in announcing their tuition proposal Wednesday, UC officials insisted that current tuition was \$11,220. They said that if the regents approve the raise later this month, tuition would grow to \$11,502 for the 2017-18 school year, an increase of 2.5 percent.

The Chronicle repeatedly asked UC officials on Wednesday to explain why their proposed tuition increase looked more like a reduction in price. Yet the response didn't include an explanation.

"Tuition is \$11,220 and has been at that level since 2011-12," said UC spokeswoman Dianne Klein.

A reason for the seemingly Orwellian shift in tuition figures was finally provided on Thursday.

It turns out that UC's often-cited tuition figure of \$12,192 has always included a "student services" fee. Now, however, UC is separating out that fee from the tuition figure.

That's because UC is proposing to increase that student services fee by a higher percentage (5 percent) than the base tuition increase (2.5 percent).

Here's a breakdown of UC's current mandatory annual charges for California undergraduates, which total \$13,566, not including room, board and books:

- Tuition, unchanged since 2011: \$11,160.
- Legal surcharge, unchanged since 2011: \$60.

- “Student services fee”: \$1,074 (up from \$992 in 2011).
- Average “campus-based fee” in 2016 (the only figure never included in UC’s past tuition announcements): \$1,272.

*Under UC’s proposal for fall, 2017, students would pay \$13,959, **a total increase of nearly 3 percent:***

- Tuition and the legal surcharge would rise by 2.5 percent to \$11,502
- The student services fee would rise by 5 percent to \$1,128.
- The campus-based fee, while not included in the proposal, has risen by an average of \$57 a year since 2011. With that increase, the fee would be \$1,329 next fall.

The regents will consider the proposal at their meeting in San Francisco on Jan. 25 and 26.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/education/article/UC-s-tuition-increase-A-case-of-funny-math-10838716.php>

Put another way, someone at UCOP thought it would be clever PR to change the way the numbers were presented. But someone else noticed the revision, and now we have negative PR. Will the first “someone” be held accountable for the faux pas? Silly question.

More leaking

Friday, January 06, 2017



In an earlier post, we reported on leaks from the UC-Davis chancellor search. But there is another kind of leak that often occurs prior to the release of the governor's budget proposal. In this case, the governor's office is dropping hints of austerity and less-than-expected revenue:

In the six years since Gov. Jerry Brown returned to the state Capitol, his relatively parsimonious approach to state budgets has been consistent enough to leave few watchers expecting major surprises.

But recent events in California and the nation suggest the fiscal proposal Brown unveils next week could be his most circumspect to date, even after voters in November approved billions of dollars in additional taxes.

"We have a number of significant fiscal pressures that are looming," said H.D. Palmer, the governor's budget spokesman...

Full story at <http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-sac-jerry-brown-budget-preview-20170106-story.html>

Actually, in the first 5 months of the fiscal year, revenues were ahead of projections made when the current budget was passed by about \$200 million. [<http://controller.ca.gov/Files-ARD/CASH/05%20November%202016.pdf>] So the leaking has to do with the 6th month (December) on which the controller has yet to provide data.

The IT outsourcing mess keeps coming up

Saturday, January 07, 2017



While the story of outsourcing IT jobs to India by UC-San Francisco has been circulating in the news media for some time, it keeps coming up - probably, because the outsourcing itself is ongoing. The LA Times picked up the story in a column by Michael Hiltzik.

How the University of California exploited a visa loophole to move tech jobs to India

Using a visa loophole to fire well-paid U.S. information technology works and replace them with low-paid immigrants from India is despicable enough when it's done by profit-making companies such as Southern California Edison and Walt Disney Co.

But the latest employer to try this stunt sets a new mark in what might be termed "job laundering." It's the University of California. Experts in the abuse of so-called H-1B visas say UC is the first public university to send the jobs of American IT staff offshore. That's not a distinction UC should wear proudly.

UC San Francisco, the system's biggest medical center, announced in July that it would lay off 49 career IT staffers and eliminate 48 other IT jobs that were vacant or filled by contract employees. The workers are to be gone as of Feb. 28. In the meantime they've been ordered to train their own replacements, who are employees of the Indian outsourcing firm HCL Technologies.

The training process was described by UCSF managers by the Orwellian term "knowledge transfer," according to Audrey Hatten-Milholin, 53, an IT architect with 17 years of experience at UCSF who will be laid off next month...

Full story at <http://www.latimes.com/business/hiltzik/la-fi-hiltzik-uc-visas-20170108-story.html>

Given the sensitivity of outsourcing with the incoming Trump administration, the vulnerability of UC - we have in earlier posts pointed to federal funds that support UC - can't just be an issue for one campus. Note that the column headline above names UC,

not UC-SF, as the culprit. Note also that photo that accompanies the column is not of the chancellor of UC-SF but of the UC president.



UC Prez Opines

Saturday, January 07, 2017



Former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano said Friday that Americans should be concerned that President-elect Donald Trump is dismissive of intelligence reports showing hackers sponsored by Russia sought to influence the U.S. election.

*"It is rare to see the entire intelligence community of one mind on an issue," Napolitano told The (San Francisco) Chronicle's editorial board, **speaking as an individual and not in her current role as University of California president.***

Napolitano was privy to the nation's top secrets when she served as homeland security chief from 2009 to 2013 under President Obama...

Full story at <http://www.sfchronicle.com/politics/article/Napolitano-says-Trump-should-trust-intelligence-10840954.php>

More budget leaking

Sunday, January 08, 2017



The state budget will be released by Gov. Brown and aides on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 11 AM.* Although no numbers have been released, there has been a series of cautionary news articles basically indicating that things are uncertain due to the incoming Trump administration. The latest:

Gov. Jerry Brown will release a proposed state spending plan this week without knowing the answers to key questions that will have a massive effect on the state's finances. Will California take a hit from new federal spending priorities under President-elect Donald Trump? How will the stock markets respond, affecting the incomes of wealthy taxpayers who provide a disproportionate share of state revenue? Depending on the answers, the budget proposal may be short-lived and substantially overhauled by the time Brown issues his required revision in May... "We want to be careful not to overcommit the state to levels of spending that may not be sustainable over the long term," said H.D. Palmer, a spokesman for Brown's Department of Finance...

Full story at <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/California-governor-preps-to-release-budget-amid-10843311.php>

*The release will be live-streamed at the Calchannel: <http://www.calchannel.com/>

Pulling Off?

Sunday, January 08, 2017



Excerpt from KXTV-Sacramento reporter Lilia Luciano:

*On the same week, University of California regents proposed a 2.5 percent tuition increase. UC spokeswoman Dianne Klein said, "Now we've reached the poing where it is critical to invest in improving the student experience on campuses and maintain UC's academic excellence." I spoke with **Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon** for my Friday debrief, to understand where we stand when it comes to higher education. He said that we're way ahead in providing assistance in community college, but that the legislature is keeping a close eye on **what UC is trying to pull off**.*

From: <http://www.abc10.com/mb/news/local/friday-debrief-as-new-york-announces-free-tuition-california-announces-higher-tuition/382720350>

Pension cutting

Monday, January 09, 2017



The so-called "California Rule" banning cuts in pensions has been weakening in litigation. The rule refers to pensions offered at hire or while employed, not to reduced pensions offered to new hires (such as at UC). However, erosion of the defined-benefits pension promise in legal terms could push more UC new employees into choosing the defined-contribution alternative. See below:

A second appeals court panel has unanimously ruled that the public pension offered at hire can be cut without an offsetting new benefit, broadening support for what pension reformers call a "game changer" if the state Supreme Court agrees.

The new ruling on Dec. 30 in a state firefighters suit on pension-boosting "airtime" purchases made several references to a groundbreaking ruling last summer in a Marin County pension "spiking" suit.

"The law is quite clear that they are entitled only to a 'reasonable' pension, not one providing fixed or definite benefits immune from modification or elimination by the governing body," wrote Justice Martin Jenkins.

The two appeals court rulings are contrary to previous rulings known as the "California rule": The pension offered at hire becomes a vested right, protected by contract law, that can only be cut if offset by a comparable new benefit, erasing any savings.

Most pension reforms are limited to new hires (who are not yet vested), taking decades to yield significant savings. To get major savings, some reformers want to cut the pensions of existing workers, protecting what's already earned but reducing future pension earnings...

Full story at <https://calpensions.com/2017/01/09/another-ruling-says-pension-set-at-hire-can-be-cut/>

Note further that the idea of "protecting what's already earned but reducing future pension earnings" is misleading. Under a DB pension, a typical employee half way through his/her career has "earned" up to that point comparatively little as a vested benefit. The formulas reward long service. What he/she has is a promise - now potentially eroded in meaning - that if he/she stays longer, a good benefit will eventually result.

We are breathlessly awaiting Gov. Brown's budget this morning

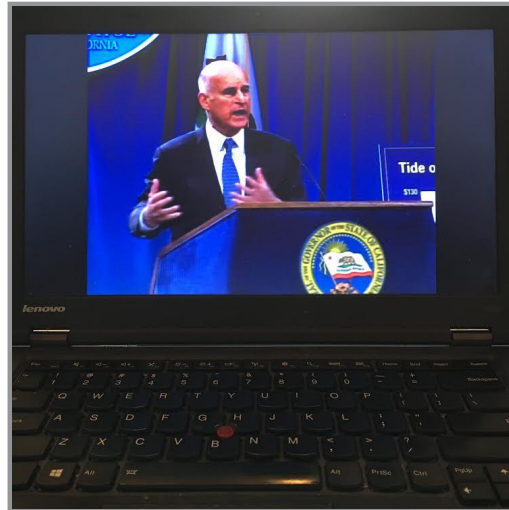
Tuesday, January 10, 2017



We'll try to give some analysis once we have digested the budget highlights.

The Governor Giveth and the Governor Taketh Away

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

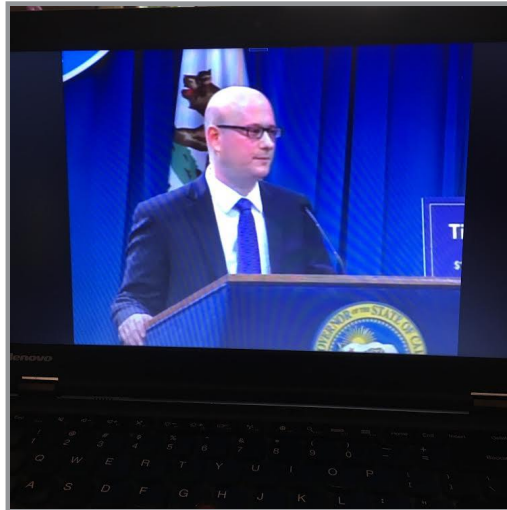


Before we provide some preliminary analysis of the proposed state budget for 2017-18 that was presented by the governor and his budget director Michael Cohen this morning, let's focus just on the higher ed piece.

The current "ongoing" general fund contribution for UC (in 2016-17) is \$3,279.0 million. In the upcoming budget year, the governor proposes \$3,362.1 million, an *increase* of \$83.1 million.

On the other hand, in what are termed "one-time" funds for UC, the current year funding is \$261.6 million. But in the next year, that amount drops to \$169.0 million, a *decrease* of \$92.6 million. So the cut more or less offset the increase.

We know the UC prez (and soon the Regents most likely) will endorse a tuition increase. The state budget does not reflect that proposal in the figures in presents. The governor does not say "over my dead body" in response. Rather, he continues the general line that there should be increases in efficiency and quality. Here is the language from the budget summary:



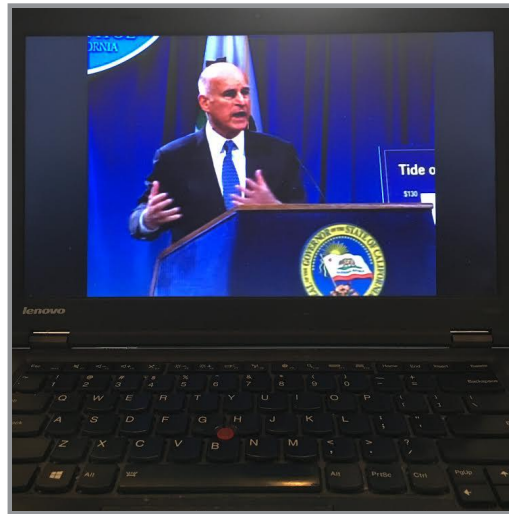
Tuition and Fees at the Public Segments

Fees at the community colleges will remain flat in 2017 -18—a clear signal that the colleges will remain an accessible pathway to postsecondary education. At UC and CSU, fees have remained flat for five years. However, the UC Office of the President has indicated that it will present a 2.5 -percent tuition increase to the Board of Regents later in January, and the CSU Chancellor's Office has indicated that the Chancellor will present a 5 -percent tuition increase to the Board of Trustees in March. These tuition increases would grow Cal Grant costs for UC students by \$17.7 million and for CSU students by \$24.9 million in 2017 -18 beyond the costs reflected in the Budget. Any tuition increases must be viewed in the context of reducing the overall cost structure at UC and improving the graduation rates at CSU. Tuition increases without these improvements would only burden families with the cost of an inefficient system.

Source: Page 39 of <http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/FullBudgetSummary.pdf>

A State Budget Overview

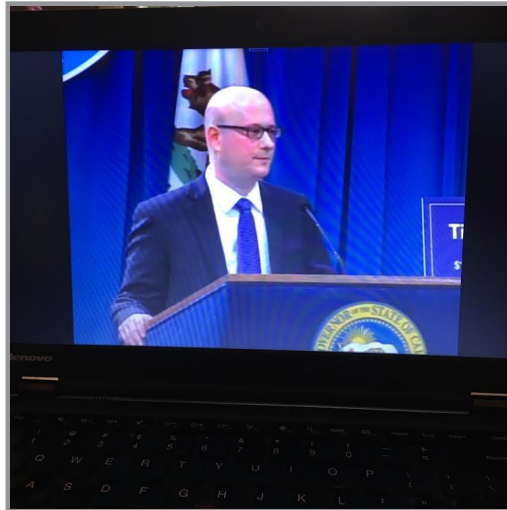
Tuesday, January 10, 2017



As blog readers will know, the state budget comes in steps. Under the state constitution, the governor must present a proposal in early January, which he did today, along with his budget director, Michael Cohen. The fiscal year in California begins each July 1. Hence, the January budget proposal involves a projection of revenue and expenditures over a period of almost a year and a half.

Governor Brown has been pointing to a decrease in revenues for the current year (2016-17) compared to the projections made when the budget was put together last June. That observation underlies the budget.

Back when Arnold Schwarzenegger was governor, the state created what Governor Brown likes to call a rainy-day fund. But the Schwarzenegger-era rainy-day fund never amounted to much in practice. It was basically an account on paper only. Governor Brown – via initiative – created a formula system by which revenue would be taken off the top and diverted to the rainy-day fund. In addition, the legislature – if it desires (and is prodded by the governor) – can add money to the rainy-day fund beyond the formulas. In addition to the rainy-day fund, there was and is a reserve in the general fund – which is supposed to be kept positive, at least by the end of the fiscal year. So you can think of the state as having a checking account for ongoing expenses. Money flows in and out. And there is a balance in the account. The state also has a savings account (the rainy-day fund).



To get a sense of what is happening, you need to look at the sum of the two accounts. If the balance in the combination of the two accounts goes up in a fiscal year (more money comes in than goes out), that is termed – or should be termed – a surplus. If the opposite occurs and the combined balance falls during a fiscal year, that is termed – or should be termed – a deficit. (In practice, the state is often sloppy in what it terms surpluses and deficits, sometimes mixing up stocks and flows and sometimes combining years.)

OK. The table below summarizes the current budget and the proposed budget for next year. Keep in mind that even the current budget involves a forecast since over 5 months remain and projections of revenues and spending may change. Also, keep in mind that given the uncertainties of what Washington may do under President Trump, there could be big impacts on the state budget, especially the budget for 2017-18. The budget projections made so far do not reflect any assumptions about what may happen to federal policy.

\$ Millions	2016-17	2017-18		General Fund (GF)
Regular Balance Beginning of Year	\$5,023	\$1,027		
Revenues & Transfers	\$118,765	\$124,027		
Expenditures	-\$122,761	-\$122,520		
<i>Surplus or Deficit</i>	<i>-\$3,996</i>	<i>+\$1,507</i>		
Regular Balance End of Year	\$1,027	\$2,534		Rainy-Day Fund
Balance at Start of Year	\$3,529	\$6,713		
Surplus or Deficit	+\$3,184	+\$1,156		
Balance at End of Year	\$6,713	\$7,869		Combination of Both Funds
Balance at Start of Year	\$8,552	\$7,740		
<i>Surplus or Deficit</i>	<i>-\$812</i>	<i>+\$2,663</i>		
Balance at End of Year	\$7,740	\$10,403		

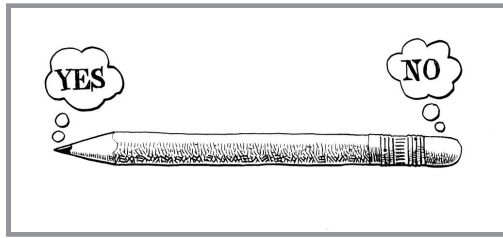
So what do we learn from the table above? The General Fund this year ran a deficit and the Rainy-Day Fund ran a surplus that failed to offset it. The combination of the two thus produced a deficit of \$812 million. If you go back to last June's budget projections, we were supposed to run a combined surplus of \$1,136 million. So there was a swing of almost \$2 billion, a combination of less revenue than projected (mainly) and more spending than projected. If you compare total reserves projected for the end of 2017-18 with projected expenditures, the ratio is about 8.5%. A recession – if one came along –

would burn through the reserves pretty quickly. You might get a year to adjust .

What will the legislature do with this proposal? The legislative leaders might prefer to take a more optimistic view of projected revenues. But the process is that hearings will be held in in May the governor will release his "May Revise" proposal, which will incorporate more information on revenues, more information on what is going on in Washington, DC, and some political appraisal of what the legislature wants.

State Budget Follow-Up

Wednesday, January 11, 2017



We noted yesterday that budget proposals are based on projections of revenues and expenditures. What actually occurs can be known for sure only after the fact. Even Gov. Brown's estimates for the current fiscal year include forecasts, since there are over 5 months to go before the fiscal year ends.

Not surprisingly, legislative leaders were not happy with the austere tone of the governor's proposal yesterday and prefer to base their budgeting on more optimistic figures on revenue offered by the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) last November. (Of course, LAO had two month's less information on which to base its estimates.)

It might be noted that one program that was on Brown's chopping block was the middle class scholarship program which was the pride of now-Regent John Pérez.

You can read about legislative reactions at:

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/23aaaf53e09d4a68a61ce30fddd6dd8f/governor-pitches-1225b-california-budget-warns-deficit>

Listen to Regents Health Committee Which Met Last Dec. 5 (We missed...

Wednesday, January 11, 2017



The Regents' Health Services Committee met last December 5 off cycle. We missed this session. But we have now caught up and continue to archive indefinitely the audio of the meeting.

As we have noted, the Regents "archive" their recordings of meetings for only one year. Why there should be that limit is unknown. When we have inquired, the most you get back is that that's what CSU does.

You can hear the audio at the link below:

Below is the agenda:

UC REGENTS HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE Date: December 5, 2016 Time: 10:00 a.m. Location: Luskin Conference Center, Centennial Hall, Salons C & D, Los Angeles Campus Agenda – Open Session Public Comment Period (20 minutes) Action Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of October 18, 2016 Discussion Remarks of the Executive Vice President – UC Health Discussion UC Health: Review of the Clinical Enterprise Strategy Discussion Operating Paradigms for the Future of UC Health ---- Committee membership: Regents Blum, Lansing (Chair), Makarechian, Reiss, and Sherman (Vice Chair); Ex officio members Brown, Lozano, and Napolitano; Executive Vice President Stobo, Chancellors Hawgood and Khosla; Advisory members Dimsdale, Hernández, Lipstein, Ramsey, and Smith

Others can be grand, too

Thursday, January 12, 2017



Just a note to the UCLA Grand Hotel folks that a new commercial hotel - the *Plaza la Reina* - has opened in Westwood Village at 10580 Lindbrook Drive.

Hotel Developer Has More Rooms

More than 25 years after constructing Center West, a 23-story Westwood office tower of red granite and green glass, developer Kambiz Hekmat of Indivest Inc. has finished a project next door of a much smaller and quainter variety. His six-story Plaza la Reina hotel, near the center of Westwood, opened last month, offering 44 suites in an airy complex designed in mission revival style.

Hekmat anticipates nearby UCLA will be a draw to Plaza la Reina...

Full story at <http://labusinessjournal.com/news/2017/jan/06/hotel-developer-has-more-rooms/>

Killing Tenure

Friday, January 13, 2017



From Inside Higher Ed:

Lawmakers in two states this week introduced legislation that would eliminate tenure for public college and university professors. A bill in Missouri would end tenure for all new faculty hires starting in 2018 and require more student access to information about the job market for majors. Legislation in Iowa would end tenure even for those who already have it. The bills, along with the recent gutting of tenure in Wisconsin and other events, have some worrying about a trend... Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/01/13/legislation-two-states-seeks-eliminate-tenure-public-higher-education>

Tamping down "problems"

Friday, January 13, 2017



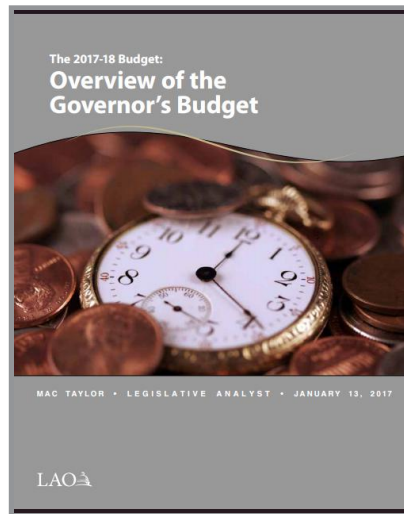
What do we make of the recent announcement by UCOP that a Title IX official was being appointed at the systemwide level?

Excerpt: *The University of California today (Jan. 12) announced the appointment of Kathleen Salvaty to fill the new position of systemwide Title IX coordinator, reporting directly to President Janet Napolitano in a role that will lead efforts against sexual violence and sexual harassment throughout the University. Salvaty, an attorney who most recently worked as Title IX coordinator at UCLA, will direct the University's ongoing efforts to change the culture around issues of sexual violence and sexual harassment. This includes education, prevention, adjudication and sanctioning in such matters involving faculty, students and staff. In conjunction with campus chancellors and leaders at UC medical centers and labs, she will oversee local Title IX coordinators to ensure coordination, consistency and timeliness in implementing University policy...*

Full announcement at <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/uc-hires-first-systemwide-title-ix-coordinator> Probably, the key words are coordination and consistency. At the campus level, the local procedures have caused results that have created "problems" for the UC prez. Examples include the cases of a history professor at UCLA and a dean at Berkeley. So tamping down such problems and controversies is probably the key goal. In addition, the incoming Trump administration is likely to produce dramatic changes regarding Title IX guidelines. Such changes could also create problems for UC. **In short, what's wanted is:**

LAO On Brown's Budget and On UC

Friday, January 13, 2017



The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) typically comments whenever a governor presents a budget proposal. Today, the LAO released its comments on the budget for 2017-18 that Brown presented earlier this week.

As expected, the LAO projects a higher inflow of revenue than Brown, based mainly on personal income taxes and revenue that might come from capital gains. There is a great deal of uncertainty about capital gains when it comes to taxation. The gains are only taxable when they are realized, i.e., when stock that has appreciated is sold. So the fact that the stock market has generally rise recently - while a positive factor in estimating revenues - is not a sure indicator. If the market is going up, California stockholders might choose to hold on to their stocks rather than sell them.

In any event, at this point, we are several months away from the May Revise budget that the governor will release. So while there will be hearings in the legislature, there will be no budget enactment until after the May Revise.

The LAO commented specifically on the UC budget. It followed its usual inclination to want the legislature to have a voice in what UC does. (LAO is a creature of the legislature.)

Governor Sends Unclear Message Regarding Tuition Increases.

As in recent years, the Governor's budget assumes UC and CSU do not raise resident tuition. Unlike recent years, however, he does not condition his proposed General Fund increases on the segments holding resident tuition levels flat. Both UC and CSU have indicated an interest in increasing resident tuition for 2017-18 (2.5 percent at UC and about 5 percent at CSU). The Governor has not taken a formal position on these proposals, though his Budget Summary declares that "any tuition increases must be viewed in the context of reducing the overall cost structure at UC and improving graduation rates at CSU."^L

Legislature Has Key Role in Crafting UC's and CSU's Budgets.

The Legislature has a key role in setting state higher education priorities, examining the universities' budgets, and making associated spending decisions. Every year, the Legislature fundamentally decides (1) the total level of cost increases to support and (2) how to cover those cost increases. Some years, the Legislature has decided to cover all spending increases using state General Fund support, explicitly "buying out" tuition increases or otherwise holding student tuition levels flat. Other years, both state General Fund support and tuition levels have been raised. In still other years, state General Fund support has fallen or been held flat, with tuition levels rising to cover cost increases. In the coming months, the Legislature will have an opportunity to decide what UC and CSU cost increases to support for 2017-18 and how best to cover those cost increases.

The full LAO report is at <http://lao.ca.gov/reports/2017/3528/budget-overview-2017.pdf>

Charge!

Saturday, January 14, 2017



*Electric vehicles are seen as the future of clean transportation, but they can also be used as energy storage devices, and that is the what the **City of Santa Monica and UCLA** have teamed up to test with the installation of an experimental Level 3 charger. The charger offers the fastest vehicle recharge currently available on the market. The experimental part of the special charger is that it then connects the vehicle to the electrical grid as a battery storage device. The test is hoping to show how EVs can be used as batteries to push electrons onto the grid in the event of short fluctuations in grid electricity, fluctuations likely due to limited solar output on cloudy days, and the like. A fast charger can fully charge an EV in less than half an hour, compared to typical Level 2 chargers, which usually take several hours (Level 1 charging requires the use of a standard plug)... Full story at <http://patch.com/california/santamonica/santa-monica-teams-ucla-install-experimental-ev-fast-charger>*

No Fly Zone

Saturday, January 14, 2017



Prof. Sanford Jacoby - in a Facebook post - points to a state-funded travel ban that applies to UC:

PROHIBITION ON STATE-FUNDED AND STATE-SPONSORED TRAVEL TO STATES WITH DISCRIMINATORY LAWS (ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1887)

In AB 1887, the California Legislature determined that "California must take action to avoid supporting or financing discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people." (Gov. Code, § 11139.8, subd. (a)(5).) To that end, AB 1887 prohibits a state agency, department, board, or commission from requiring any state employees, officers, or members to travel to a state that, after June 26, 2015, has enacted a law that (1) has the effect of voiding or repealing existing state or local protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; (2) authorizes or requires discrimination against same-sex couples or their families or on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; or (3) creates an exemption to antidiscrimination laws in order to permit discrimination against same-sex couples or their families or on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. (Gov. Code, § 11139.8, subds. (b)(1), (2).) In addition, the law prohibits California from approving a request for state-funded or state-sponsored travel to such a state. (Gov. Code, § 11139.8, subd. (b)(2).)

The travel prohibition applies to state agencies, departments, boards, authorities, and commissions, including an agency, department, board, authority, or commission of the University of California, **the Board of Regents of the University of California**, and the California State University. (Gov. Code, § 11139.8, subd. (b).)

The law also requires the Attorney General to develop, maintain, and post on her Internet Web site a current list of states that are subject to the travel ban. (Gov. Code, § 11139.8, subd. (e).)

States Subject to AB 1887's Travel Prohibition

The following states are currently subject to California's ban on state-funded and state-sponsored travel:

Kansas

Mississippi

North Carolina

Tennessee...

Source: <https://oag.ca.gov/ab1887> (Various exceptions, listed in this source apply.)

The Changing Climate (for Research)

Saturday, January 14, 2017



Capitol Alert blog of [Sacramento Bee](#), Jan. 13, 2017

Do they need a 'damn satellite'? Why Trump worries California scientists

BY ADAM ASHTON

At the conference last month where Gov. Jerry Brown declared the state would "launch its own damn satellite" if the Trump administration restricts access to climate data, a group of scientists from the University of California gathered in a side room to figure out how to do just that.

Alarmed by statements they'd read from members of Trump's transition team, the scientists brainstormed whether they could find new data sources or if they could somehow partner with a private company to pay for a satellite program.

The group did not settle on a plan, and it may not need to find one. It's unclear whether President-elect Donald Trump's administration actually would make it more difficult for researchers to access information from NASA satellites they've been using for years.

But the gathering was another sign that California scientists don't know what to expect from an incoming Trump team. They're preparing for everything from a cut in funding for scientific research to a public relations campaign deriding their work.

"We're being pre-emptive. It would be a mistake not to think preemptively," said Ben Houlton, the director of the John Muir Institute of the Environment at UC Davis, who participated in the meeting with fellow UC researchers last month.

In many cases, state scientists are girding to protect programs they've cultivated for decades. The Department of Water Resources, for instance, has been looking at how global warming would affect water storage since the 1980s.

That kind of work lately has enjoyed widespread public support. A report released this week from the Public Policy Institute of California noted that 81 percent of residents view global warming as a serious threat, and that more than two-thirds of residents surveyed in a July poll favor California laws limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

Brown's 2017-18 budget released this week included a six-page section on climate change and an appeal for the Legislature to explicitly extend the authority of the Air Resources Board's cap-and-trade program. He told reporters in his budget remarks that he didn't think the state would have to follow through on building a satellite, but he wouldn't rule it out.

"The silver lining of all of this is we're in California, so we're probably in the safest place we can be to talk about climate change. There's enough understanding of what's at risk that this work is not going to stop," said Amber Pairis, a state scientist who leads a climate science program in San Diego that's partly funded by the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Here's a look at the main ways that California state scientists say a Trump administration could upend their work.

My facts are your fake news

After his election, Trump met with former Vice President Al Gore and told The New York Times he'd keep an "open mind" about climate change research.

But his earlier statements are shaping worries in the scientific community that he'll cast doubt about their work. Before he launched his presidential bid, for instance, Trump declared on Twitter that global warming was a hoax "created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive."

Robert Walker, a former congressman who advised Trump's team on space exploration, in October also published an editorial in which he derided "politically correct environmental monitoring" by NASA.

"More than anything, it's this fact-free society that concerns me," said Houlton, who has reached out to lawyers and colleagues from the humanities in addition to other UC scientists since Trump's election. They're trying to think of ways to communicate differently about climate change to connect with people who have disagreed with them in the past.

Challenging environmental regulations

During the Obama administration, the California Air Resources Board's pollution-control policies were largely in sync with programs coming out of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that aimed to increase auto mileage and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Both the state board and the EPA are monitoring the auto industry's compliance with new mileage standards, and both agencies issued reports in July suggesting that they expected car manufacturers to hit the targets.

Two days after the election, Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers President Mitch Bainwol wrote a letter asking the Trump transition team to review those policies and others.

Scott Pruitt, Trump's choice to lead the EPA, has a long record as Oklahoma's attorney

general of challenging federal environmental regulations to promote economic growth. Trump's energy platform calls for boosting fossil fuel production.

As a result, the Air Resources Board could find itself standing alone to stick up for the regulations it advanced during Obama's terms.

"More eyes are on us because we're seen as more of a leader with less leadership coming out of Washington in climate and other areas," said Dan Sperling, a UC Davis professor who sits on the Air Resources Board.

Cutting federal climate research

Paying for an expensive environmental study sometimes takes a mix of state, federal and private funds. Some scientists worry that new priorities from the White House will mean an end to new grants for climate research.

"We're worried about these big, large-scale creative endeavors. It's going to be hard to fund them," said Pairis, whose Climate Science Alliance works to help Southern California communities prepare for climate change. It's funded by state, federal and philanthropic sources.

Lately, the state has partnered with federal scientists on several studies that assess how global warming could affect California's water resources. The results shape decisions on how to fund new water storage projects, said John Andrew, who has led the climate change program at the Department of Water Resources since 2006.

Opportunities for those studies developed after Obama took office and sought to collaborate with the department, he said.

"It's just speculative to say where the next administration will be in reality," he said. "Where there are opportunities to do things, we'll certainly take advantage of them, and where there isn't, there certainly is support to continue it at the state level."

Turning back the satellites

The remarks that caught Brown's attention when he gave his call-to-arms last month came from Trump space adviser Walker. His October editorial and interviews he gave in November suggested Trump would restrict NASA's earth science budget or steer that kind of work to another federal agency.

Throughout California, scientists rely on NASA images almost daily to study the water content of the state's snowpack, prepare for weather hazards or track natural disasters.

"It's data availability that would concern me," said Roger Bales, director of the Sierra Nevada Research Institute at UC Merced. "That would affect not just research, but it would affect response to natural hazards and management decisions around forests and water resources. There's a lot of money riding on those data."

Trump's team has not sent any new signals suggesting it would follow Walker's guidance. Gov. Brown in his budget remarks noted that silence likely meant the satellites were safe. After all, NASA has already spent the money to put the data-gathering satellites in space and budgeted funds to operate them.

But Bales and other researchers are watching the programs closely, just in case they're targeted for cuts.

"We should be concerned," Houlton said. "We should take this as a call to arms. And we should collaborate like never before."

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article126480164.html>

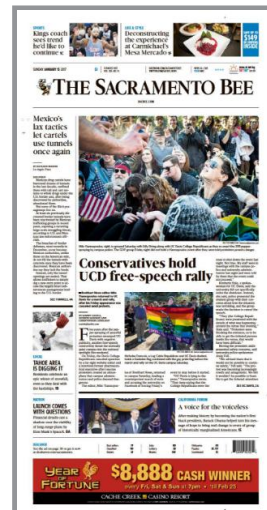
Brown on the UC-Managed National Labs:

Is Davis the New Berkeley?

Sunday, January 15, 2017



UC-Davis seems to be the center of conflict and controversy these days, reminiscent of UC-Berkeley in the 1960s. Most blog readers will recall the pepper-spray cop incident at Davis a few years back that got national attention - even the attention of Harry Shearer. (See link below.) The pepper spraying - which was linked to "Occupy" protests at that time - seemed to kick off a series of events.



For example, there was last year's conflict between student groups and the Davis chancellor (who earlier had nearly lost her job over the pepper spray affair). This one ended with sit-ins in the chancellor's office and open warfare between the UC prez and the chancellor. The prez won that one.

We now have a new event. Breitbart editor Milo Yiannopoulos - who regularly visits college campuses and sparks protests - was supposed to speak at Davis last Friday. But the event was shut down due to counter demonstrations. He then came back the next day and held a campus rally anyway.

You can read about the most recent events and see videos on the Sacramento Bee website at:

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/education/article126676049.html>

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article126556819.html>

The interim chancellor at Davis reacted officially at:

<https://www.ucdavis.edu/news/message-interim-chancellor-ralph-j-hexter-event-cancellation>

Harry Shearer's musical account of the pepper spray incident is at:

PS: According to Yiannopoulos' website, he plans to be at UCLA on Feb. 2.

Raising Tuition May Be Tough

Monday, January 16, 2017



News stories like this one from Inside Higher Ed may lead to significant political resistance to UC's plan to raise tuition:

*Rhode Island Governor Gina M. Raimondo plans today to propose that the state offer two tuition-free years for full-time students in public higher education. Students at the Community College of Rhode Island would pay no tuition while earning an associate degree. For state residents who start at Rhode Island College or the University of Rhode Island, their junior and senior years would be tuition-free. There is no income limit, although the public system in Rhode Island serves many more low-income students than wealthy students. Those who participate at the Community College of Rhode Island will not also be able to do so at the four-year institutions. Room and board are not covered by the proposal. To qualify for the tuition waiver at the four-year institutions, students must have completed 60 credits of course work by the end of their sophomore year, declared a major and maintained a grade point average of at least 2.0. The proposal is another sign that the idea of tuition-free public higher education -- presumed by many to be dead after Hillary Clinton pushed the concept and lost the presidential election -- may have more legs in the states than at the federal level. Raimondo's proposal comes two weeks after Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York proposed tuition-free public higher education for those from families with incomes up to \$125,000. Both governors are Democrats. But while Cuomo must deal with powerful Republican legislators in the New York State Senate, Raimondo has a General Assembly with two houses that are overwhelmingly Democratic. *David M. Dooley, president of the University of Rhode Island, said in an interview Sunday that he was "very enthusiastic about the plan" and thought it had good prospects for being enacted into law... Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/01/16/rhode-island-governor-proposes-two-free-years-public-higher-education> --- *Note that both houses in California are also heavily Democratic.*

Preliminary Regents Agenda

Monday, January 16, 2017



A preliminary version of the Jan. 25-26 Regents meeting is now posted.* Upcoming topics include creation of a nursing school at Irvine and the construction of an addition to the Anderson complex at UCLA. In closed session, there will be discussion of litigation in various sexual misconduct cases including the Dean Sujit Choudhry affair at Berkeley.** There will also be discussion of the possible effects of the incoming Trump administration. You can bet that the proposed tuition increase will be aired in the public comment sessions.

As always, since the Regents "archive" recordings of their meetings for only one year, we will endeavor to archive the audio of the sessions indefinitely.

* <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/agendas/jan17.html>

** <https://casetext.com/case/choudhry-v-regents-of-the-univ-of-cal>
<http://leiterlawschool.typepad.com/files/2016-09-22-pl-motion-in-support-of-preliminary-injunction---doc-no-13.pdf>
<http://www2.courthousenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Choudry-dismissal.pdf>

ICYMI

Tuesday, January 17, 2017



In case you missed it, the LA Times ran an editorial yesterday endorsing the UC prez's proposed tuition increase. The editorial was also rather critical of Gov. Brown's lack of vision for UC.

...No one likes to see the price of higher education rise, but if (UC prez) Napolitano is true to her word and this money is used solely to improve the education of those who pay it, the price hike is justified. There are valid concerns about the long-term funding of the university, but for the short-term, preserving UC's quality in exchange for a small increase in tuition and fees is the right move. The Board of Regents should approve the price hike when it meets next week...

The governor, who has never been a major supporter of UC, basically resisted anything that would help the university bring in more money — higher tuition, better funding from the state or admitting more out-of-state students, who bring geographic diversity to campus in addition to paying a higher tuition that helps fund financial aid for low-income Californians. Instead, Brown expressed his preference for a more austere UC, one that saves money by pushing more online courses and prodding professors into teaching more classes while engaging less in research and other academic pursuits.

That's not a vision, though. It's short-sighted frugality that would strip down one of the state's best-run and most admired institutions...

Full editorial at <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-uc-tuition-hike-20170113-story.html>

Napolitano Hospitalized

Tuesday, January 17, 2017



University of California President Janet Napolitano was hospitalized this week for side effects related to the treatment of cancer, which was diagnosed in August, UC officials said Tuesday. Napolitano, who has led the vast university system since 2013, “has consistently performed her wide range of duties at full capacity, without interruption or impact” since beginning treatment for cancer last summer, according to a statement from her office. Napolitano headed the U.S. Homeland Security department between 2009 and 2013.

“Yesterday, however, she experienced side effects that required her to be hospitalized” but is doing well and is expected to be discharged this week, the statement said. Napolitano’s spokeswoman, Dianne Klein, declined to say what kind of cancer it is, citing the president’s privacy. Napolitano had previously been diagnosed and treated for cancer. Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Janet-Napolitano-hospitalized-fighting-cancer-10863052.php>

Entrepreneurial/innovation funding from state

Wednesday, January 18, 2017



Although it was overshadowed by the report in our previous post about UC prez Napolitano's cancer treatment, there is also a notice on the prez's website about a distribution of \$2.2 million per campus for entrepreneurial and innovation-type activity. Both the enabling bill (signed by the governor last September) and the UC news release (of yesterday) are a bit vague on exactly what is to be done with the money.

The law's text is below:

AB 2664, Irwin. University of California: innovation and entrepreneurship expansion.

Existing law establishes the University of California, under the administration of the Regents of the University of California, as one of the segments of public postsecondary education in this state. The University of California comprises 10 campuses, which are located at Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz.

This bill would require the University of California to make one-time expenditures for activities to expand or accelerate economic development in the state in ways that are aligned with other efforts to support innovation and entrepreneurship. The bill would identify a specific funding source in the Budget Act of 2016 appropriated for that purpose and would allocate \$2,200,000 under that appropriation to each of 10 campuses of the University of California. The bill would require the regents to designate an external advisory board, as provided, to encourage the effective use of these funds through planning and oversight and would prohibit a campus from expending these funds unless the external advisory body has certified that the chancellor of that campus has made certain demonstrations, including, among others, that funds will only be used for the costs of activities that support the expansion or acceleration of economic development in the state and that private funds that at least match the amount of state funds will also be used on those activities. The bill would require the University of California to report to the Department of Finance and the Legislature on or before November 30, 2017, on the specific activities at each campus supported by these funds.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. With respect to innovation and entrepreneurship by those connected to the University of California, the Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The State of California is well-positioned to harness the power of the University of

California's expertise to spur economic development.

(b) The University of California contributed to the launch and growth of some of California's strongest industries, including aerospace, agriculture, biotechnology, computers and semiconductors, telecommunications, and digital media.

(c) Instruction and research at the University of California can be the genesis of tomorrow's industries, companies, and commercial successes.

(d) As a public institution of higher education, the University of California is positioned to address challenges faced by entrepreneurs—challenges that are particularly acute for groups such as women and minorities who are typically underrepresented in private incubators and accelerators.

(e) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to provide one-time funds for new infrastructure at each campus to (1) enhance the state's network of programs and services that support innovators, entrepreneurs, startups, investors, and industry and community partners that are locally based and committed to serving in communities across California and (2) generate commitments of private funds for these activities in an amount at least equal to the amount of state funds.

SEC. 2. Chapter 14.5 (commencing with Section 92965) is added to Part 57 of Division 9 of Title 3 of the Education Code, to read:

CHAPTER 14.5. Innovation and Entrepreneurship Expansion

92965. (a) With funds appropriated in Item 6440-001-0001 of Section 2.00 of the Budget Act of 2016, the University of California shall make one-time expenditures for activities to expand or accelerate economic development in the state in ways that are aligned with other efforts to support innovation and entrepreneurship.

(b) From the funds specified in subdivision (a), two million two hundred thousand dollars (\$2,200,000) shall be allocated to each of the following campuses of the University of California:

(1) Berkeley.

(2) Davis.

(3) Irvine.

(4) Los Angeles.

(5) Merced.

(6) Riverside.

(7) San Diego.

(8) San Francisco.

(9) Santa Barbara.

(10) Santa Cruz.

(c) The Regents of the University of California shall designate an external advisory body, whose members have demonstrated expertise in innovation and entrepreneurship, to encourage the effective use of the funds specified in subdivision (b) through planning and oversight.

(d) A campus shall not expend the funds specified in subdivision (b) until the external advisory body has certified that the chancellor of the campus has demonstrated all of the following:

(1) That the funds will be used only for the costs of activities that support the expansion or acceleration of economic development in the state, such as any of the following benefits for entrepreneurs:

(A) Business training.

(B) Mentorship.

(C) Proof-of-concept grants.

(D) Work space.

(E) Laboratory space.

(F) Equipment.

- (2) That the funds will be spent only after the uses and beneficiaries have been determined through a transparent, inclusive, and fair process.*
- (3) That private funds will also be used for these activities, with the intent that the amount of private funds will be at least equal to the amount specified in subdivision (b).*
- (4) That any financial benefit that results from the use of these funds, including any revenues generated with these funds be accounted for and also used on these activities.*
- (5) That a credible plan has been developed to support any ongoing activities beyond the one-time expenditures of these funds.*
- (e) The external advisory body shall notify the Director of Finance and the Legislature, no fewer than 10 days before providing certification pursuant to subdivision (d) of its intent to do so.*
- (f) (1) On or before November 30, 2017, the Regents of the University of California shall report to the Director of Finance and the Legislature on the specific activities at each campus supported by these funds.*
- (2) The report shall be submitted to the Legislature pursuant to Section 9795 of the Government Code.*

S o u r c e :
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB2664

The news release announcing receipt of these funds is at:
<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/ab-2664-funds-spur-innovation-entrepreneurship>

Not going there

Thursday, January 19, 2017



The email message below has been received by yours truly from various sources over the past few days: [excerpt]

*Governor Brown signed into law AB 1887 which prohibits state-funded travel to a state that has passed a law that (1) authorizes discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, or (2) voids or repeals existing state or local protections against such discrimination. **The law expressly identifies the University of California as an entity covered by the law.** As of the date of this notice, the States of **Kansas, Mississippi, North Carolina and Tennessee** are on the prohibited travel list. The list of states may be updated on the Attorney General's website found here: <https://oag.ca.gov/ab1887> . Please note that the law does not prohibit travel that is paid for or reimbursed using non-state funds...*

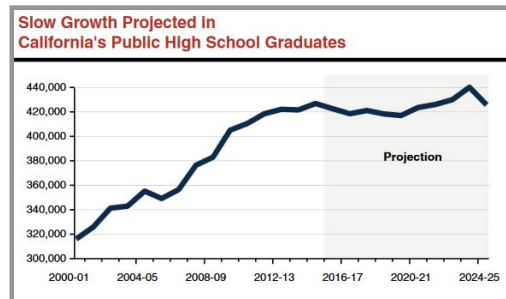
So you won't be in Kansas anymore:

More seriously, there are universities in all these states, e.g., Duke in North Carolina. Academics there have little control over what laws are passed by their legislatures. Conferences, seminars, etc., are held in such universities. Other inter-university collaborations may occur. Individual faculty may co-author papers across university lines. Some faculty in some departments will have no problem in finding non-state sources of funding for travel. For others, finding such sources might be more difficult. So boycotts raise significant issues. Did the Regents or UCOP have any position on UC's inclusion in this legislation? Did the Academic Senate? Yours truly does not recall any debate. Often, because of the constitutional autonomy of UC, state legislation excludes it or just "suggests" consideration.

It seems as though there are issues here that are not resolved by emails from various travel entities on campus and need airing in other forums.

There's always room for more...

Thursday, January 19, 2017



...students, that is. Not campuses. The LAO looks at projections of student growth and opines that UC and CSU don't need additional campuses to accommodate what is coming. See:

<http://lao.ca.gov/reports/2017/3532/uc-csu-enrollment-capacity-011917.pdf>

UCLA History: Rain

Friday, January 20, 2017



No, the rain today was not quite so dramatic as in the picture. This photo was taken when the campus was new, back in the day.

Uncertain Times

Saturday, January 21, 2017



Various bits of news emanating from Washington are already creating uncertainty for UC. UC and the State of California have taken steps in the past to provide higher ed services to so-called DREAM students - those brought into the US as children but who lack legal status. What may happen to such students is unclear. According to one report, incoming President Trump told a Democratic senator that "we don't want to hurt those kids."* Exactly what that means is unclear. The fate of "Obamacare" is also uncertain but could affect the outlook for the various UC med centers. News reports indicate that the new president signed an executive order directing federal agencies to "scale back" that program - whatever that means.**

* <http://www.latimes.com/nation/politics/trailguide/la-na-trailguide-updates-trump-on-dreamers-we-don-t-want-to-1484957168-htmlstory.html>

** <https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/01/20/us/politics/trump-executive-order-obamacare.html>

Data Preservation

Sunday, January 22, 2017



Efforts at UCLA at preserving climate change data that might disappear from federal government websites are highlighted in the LA Times:

On a rainy Inauguration Day morning, dozens of students, archivists, librarians, professors and other concerned citizens gathered in a UCLA classroom, poring over the Department of Energy website. They sifted through pages covering a broad spectrum of topics, from energy-efficient buildings and solar power to transportation and bioenergy.

The goal of Friday's workshop , which ran more than six hours: To protect publicly available climate data on government websites – data that some feared could be deleted or otherwise degraded by a new administration that has indicated its aversion to climate science...

Full story at: <http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-climate-change-data-20170121-story.html>

Uncertain Times - Part 2

Sunday, January 22, 2017



Yesterday, we ran a post from a news report indicating that incoming President Trump - in an off-hand remark to a Democratic senator - indicated that so-called DREAM students would not be targeted for deportation.*

Today, there is an opposite report in the Sacramento Bee:

*Young immigrants currently protected from deportation will be quickly removed from the country by President Donald Trump's plan to boost deportations, even if the new president doesn't target them directly, according to a former senior immigration official in the Obama administration. Democratic leaders and advocates within the immigration community are bracing for Trump on Monday to eliminate several of Obama's executive actions on immigration, including the deferred action program, known as DACA, that protects an estimated 750,000 immigrants brought here illegally as children... Full story at <http://www.sacbee.com/news/nation-world/national/article127974824.html> --- * <http://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2017/01/uncertain-times.html>*

Regental Surprise

Monday, January 23, 2017



...but it's not clear the Regents like being surprised. From the Matier & Ross column of the San Francisco Chronicle:

University of California regents were a bit taken aback by a surprise conference call informing them that UC President Janet Napolitano was hospitalized for complications from her treatment for cancer.

"It was even more surprising to hear that she had been undergoing treatment for months," said one regent, who asked not to be named because of the sensitivity of the matter.

The call came from Monica Lozano, chairwoman of the board, who had been kept informed about Napolitano's cancer treatment since she was diagnosed in August. Regents got the call Tuesday, shortly before UC went public with the news...

Full column at <http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/matier-ross/article/Napolitano-s-cancer-treatment-took-UC-regents-10872894.php>

Possible Delay on DREAM Students

Monday, January 23, 2017



According to Inside Higher Ed, there are indications that President Trump will delay a decision on so-called DREAM students until there is consultation with Congress:

Asked on Fox News Sunday whether President Trump plans to sign an executive order undoing President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program this week, Reince Priebus, the White House chief of staff, refused to make any commitments either way but said the president would be working with legislative leaders "to get a long-term solution on that issue."...

Full story at:

<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2017/01/23/priebus-noncommittal-daca-plans>

Supportive

Tuesday, January 24, 2017



The official UC position seems to be that the governor's January budget proposal for UC is consistent (with maybe a little adjustment) with what UC wants:

Governor Brown recently released his 2017-2018 budget proposal, which includes a 4 percent adjustment of \$131.2 million for UC's operating budget. In short, the Governor's proposal is consistent with the funding framework agreement between the State and University. Moreover, the proposal reflects the progress the University has made in important areas such as enrolling more transfer students and lowering the cost structure of the University.

There is room for improvement, though, and advocacy between now and the May Revision will be incredibly important for the University. Looking ahead, we'll need you, our advocates, to make your voice heard in Sacramento on key UC priorities, such as sustaining expanded access for undergraduate students, obtaining funding specifically dedicated for graduate student enrollment growth, and addressing our classroom needs. Thank you for your continued support of UC. We are eager to partner with you as we strive to achieve our goals for accessibility, affordability, and excellence.

Very respectfully,

Nelson Peacock

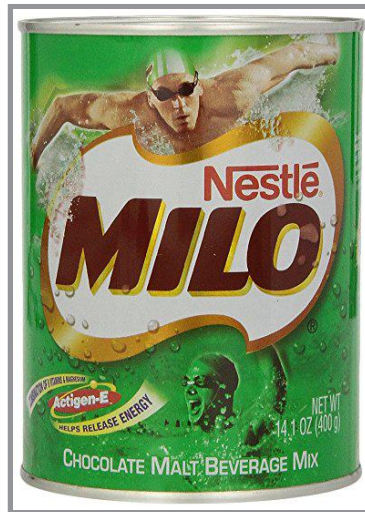
Senior Vice President

Government Relations

University of California

No Milo at UCLA

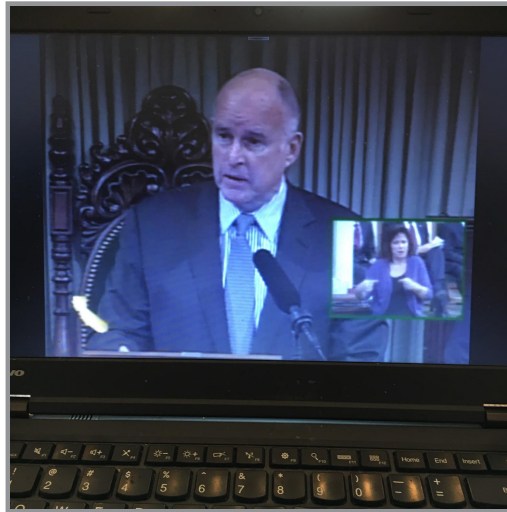
Tuesday, January 24, 2017



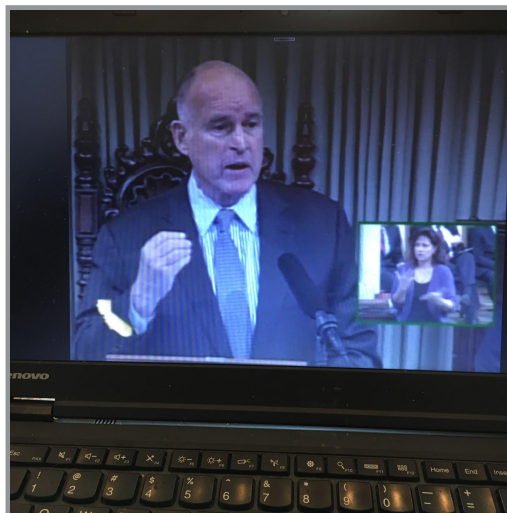
*Bruin Republicans will not host controversial conservative speaker **Milo Yiannopoulos** in February, announcing Monday night that Yiannopoulos cancelled because the group could not accommodate his requirements for the event. The group added they thought UCLA students would protest his speaking engagement and could threaten their members' safety. Students created a Facebook group to protest the event, which amassed nearly 1,500 responses of either "Interested" or "Going." The Bruin Republicans letter said the group felt the event would not ultimately help achieve their goal of educating UCLA students about conservative values. It added that protests against Yiannopoulos at other college campuses have become violent. The Breitbart editor appeared at UCLA amid protests in late May 2016 for an event titled "Feminism is Cancer." "We as a club support free speech no matter the viewpoint, yet everyone's safety is of our utmost concern," the letter said. Bruin Republicans did not disclose Yiannopoulos' requirements to participate in the event. Source: <http://dailybruin.com/2017/01/23/upcoming-bruin-republicans-event-with-milo-yiannopoulos-cancelled/> Note: Although the event had been scheduled for Feb. 2, Yiannopoulos' website suggested that the date was more tentative than at other campuses. The other campus events contained links to register for the event. The UCLA listing had no link, when last we looked.*

State of the State

Tuesday, January 24, 2017



Governor Brown gave his State of the State address earlier today to a joint session of the legislature. If you were looking for more specifics on the state budget or other matters of concern to UC, they weren't on the agenda. There was a brief message of past increased spending on education including higher ed.



Much of the speech dealt directly or indirectly with the advent of President Trump and the implication for immigration issues, climate change, etc.

The speech is available at:

<http://www.calchannel.com/video-on-demand/>

Yes and No

Wednesday, January 25, 2017



President Trump's nomination of U.S. Representative Mick Mulvaney to lead the Office of Management and Budget has alarmed many scientists. After he voted against a bill to provide funds for study of the Zika virus, Mulvaney asked in a Facebook post (since deleted), "Do we really need government-funded research at all."

At a confirmation hearing Tuesday, he said some federal support for research was appropriate. He made the statement answering questions from Senator Kamala Harris, a Democrat from California. "I do believe there is a proper role for the federal government in research," he said, Science reported...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2017/01/25/omb-nominee-ok-some-us-funds-science>

Undecided?

Bee Still Seeking Katehi Documents

Wednesday, January 25, 2017



The Sacramento Bee is complaining about UC reticence to provide documents relating to the cost of the UC-Davis/Katehi investigation:

Nearly six months after the University of California completed an investigation that led to the resignation of UC Davis Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi, UC officials still cannot say what the probe cost taxpayers.

The final bill for the four-month investigation, which The Sacramento Bee requested Aug. 3 in a California Public Records Act request, still has not been completed and is not available, UC spokeswoman Dianne Klein said Tuesday. Klein did not respond to questions about why the bill has not been finalized, whether the investigating firm had received any money yet for its services or whether there is some conflict over the bill.

That bill is among thousands of pages of documents UC has yet to produce in response to Public Records Act requests from The Bee dating back to May 5 that were filed as the scandal involving Katehi and UC Davis was unfolding.

Katehi, who faced criticism and student protests over her acceptance of lucrative corporate board seats, extensive travel and public relations efforts to improve her image, was suspended in April and resigned under fire in August as the UC probe of her actions was made public.

The Bee filed 27 public record requests during the uproar involving Katehi, which began with The Bee's revelation that she had accepted a seat on the board of DeVry Education Group while it was under investigation by the federal government for allegedly misleading students.

UC Davis and UC officials eventually released a number of records in response. Those included contracts that revealed Katehi and UC Davis hired companies to scrub the internet of negative postings about the chancellor and the school following the November 2011 pepper-spraying by police of students at a campus protest.

However, numerous records still have not been produced, including invoices and the total cost of the probe of Katehi. The inquiry was conducted by two former U.S. attorneys, Melinda Haag and McGregor Scott, and their colleagues at the Orrick law firm, which has 25 offices worldwide...

Full story at <http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article128771749.html>

Low Performing Portfolio: Will the Regents Look at Harvard?

Thursday, January 26, 2017

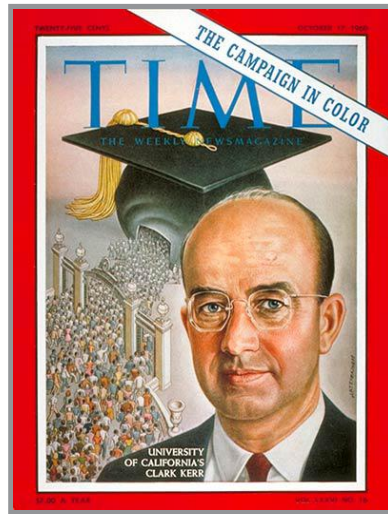


From the Boston Globe:

In a massive overhaul of the Harvard University endowment fund, its new chief executive will lay off half of the investment group's 230 employees and transfer more money to outside firms, in an effort to boost performance that for a decade has lagged behind rivals. In a letter to staff and the Harvard community Wednesday, N.P. "Narv" Narvekar laid out a future for the \$35.7 billion fund that requires far fewer people and less hands-on investing within the walls of the group's downtown Boston office... Full story at <http://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2017/01/25/harvard-endowment-will-cut-half-its-employees/WKd823v2H218NEFiuGhzeK/story.html>

Another nail in the Master Plan coffin?

Thursday, January 26, 2017



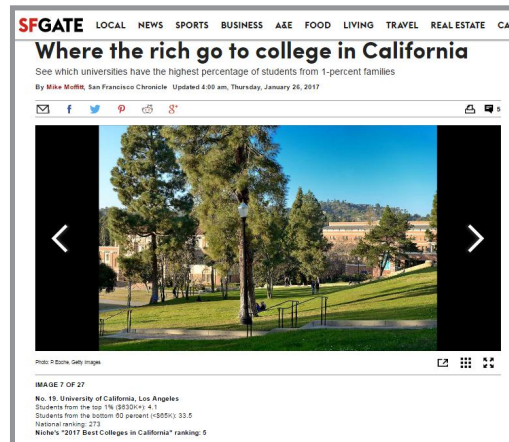
Clark Kerr's Master Plan continues to be besieged:

Assemblyman Joaquin Arambula, D-Fresno, introduced legislation Monday to establish a medical school at Fresno State, which if approved by lawmakers would be the first in the state not at a University of California campus. Arambula voiced interest in Fresno State as a site for a medical school at a meeting in September to discuss health-care needs. Historically, California has relied on the UC system for medical education, but Arambula said the state has allowed other advanced degrees to be offered at state universities such as California State University, Fresno. He expressed concern over the slow progress being made to establish a medical school at UC Merced. UC regents gave conceptual approval for a new medical school in Merced eight years ago, but the project has not materialized. UC Riverside, which got approval for a medical school in 2006, did not seat its first class of students until 2013... Full story at <http://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/education/article128427499.html>

R e a d m o r e h e r e :
<http://www.fresnobee.com/news/local/education/article128427499.html#storylink=cpy>

The 1% at UCLA

Thursday, January 26, 2017



Click on image to enlarge Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/education/article/Where-the-rich-go-to-college-in-California-10884100.php#photo-12252694>

Grand Robot for UCLA Grand Hotel

Friday, January 27, 2017



From the UCLA Grand Hotel website:

Standing less than two-feet tall, the UCLA Luskin Conference Center concierge, LARA, greets guests and answers questions as affably as her human colleagues, but with one unique distinction: LARA is a robot (Luskin Automated Robotic Assistant, to be precise). Guests can communicate with LARA vocally and through an iPad attached to her docking station, and she responds to about 30 different prompts, answering questions about the Conference Center and the campus.

<http://luskinconferencecenter.ucla.edu/not-all-concierges-created-equal/>

We have only one questions for her:

Up

Friday, January 27, 2017



You probably know by now:

The University of California regents voted Thursday to raise tuition and fees next academic year for the first time since 2011 — but state residents from families earning up to \$156,000 won't have to pay the higher price.

Beginning this summer, the base price of a year at UC for California students will be \$12,630, nearly 3 percent higher than the current \$12,294. Those amounts include tuition and a student services fee. Add additional campus fees averaging \$1,257 a year, plus the cost of room, board and books, and the total annual cost tops \$34,000 for students living on campus.

Most California residents won't have to pay the higher base price because their families qualify for subsidies from the state and UC and are eligible for an exemption. Only one-third of state residents will have to pay the increase, according to the new plan.

Out-of-state undergraduates also get no price break — and pay far higher fees than do California residents. The regents raised the base price for nonresidents to \$40,644 next year, slightly more than 4 percent above the current \$38,976. The total annual cost for those students is roughly \$61,000 if they live on campus.

Overall, the new tuition and student services fee are expected to raise \$143 million next year for the UC system, with an additional \$71 million for campuses from a surcharge paid by nonresident undergraduates...

Full story at <http://www.sfchronicle.com/education/article/UC-regents-approve-first-tuition-hike-since-2011-10886888.php>

Wouldn't it be nice if we could have the reverse?

Getting rid of IT

Friday, January 27, 2017



The KQED reports that political opposition to UC-SF's decision to outsource IT jobs abroad continues to mount:

This time the letter came from Democratic Rep. Jared Huffman.

In his letter to UC President Janet Napolitano on Wednesday, Huffman of San Rafael denounced UCSF's decision to send nearly 100 IT jobs to a multinational contractor overseas. IT employees at UCSF began training their replacements in October, and if Napolitano does not step in, several dozen of the IT workers will lose their jobs by the end of February. The employees had received layoff notices in July 2016.

Lawmakers, academics and unions have sent almost a dozen letters to Napolitano criticizing the outsourcing. At the UC Regents meeting Thursday, UCSF employee Keith Pavlik read off the names of all the letter writers to board members, hoping to get their attention.

Those who have sent letters include UCSF's Faculty Association, Sen. Dianne Feinstein and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. But Napolitano has not budged on the issue. Her office has not yet responded to a request for comment...

Full story at <https://www.kqed.org/news/2017/01/26/another-lawmaker-asks-uc-president-to-halt-ucsf-layoffs/>

Given the current climate toward outsourcing abroad in Washington, and given the possibility of a collision with Washington over immigration policies at UC, might it not be a good idea for UCOP to consider rising above principle on this matter? Just asking.

Online Petition

Saturday, January 28, 2017



A petition is circulating among academics concerning a recent presidential executive order banning immigrants from selected countries.

You can find it at:

<https://notoimmigrationban.com/>

Stay Here

Sunday, January 29, 2017

From the LA Times:

The University of California on Saturday advised university community members covered by President Trump's executive order banning travel to the United States from seven Muslim-majority countries to stay in this country for now.

"We continue to analyze the executive order and its impact on our students, faculty, scholars, employees and other community members," the UC said in a message to faculty, staff and students. "At this time, we recommend that UC community members from these seven countries who hold a visa to enter the United States or who are lawful permanent residents do not travel outside of the United States."...

Full story at:

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-uc-trump-20170128-story.html>

Listen to the Regents Meeting of Jan. 25-26, 2017

Monday, January 30, 2017



As we always do after Regents meetings, we preserve the audio indefinitely since the Regents "archive" their recordings for only one year.

I found this definition of "archive" on the web:

*Materials created or received by a person, family, or organization, public or private, in the conduct of their affairs and preserved because of the **enduring** value contained in the information they contain or as evidence of the functions and responsibilities of their creator, especially those materials maintained using the principles of provenance, original order, and collective control; permanent records.*

Source: <http://www2.archivists.org/glossary/terms/a/archives>

"Enduring" suggests more than one year to me, but apparently not to the Regents.

Anyway, here are the audio links to the meeting:

Opening session:

The full set of seven sessions is at <https://archive.org/details/7BoardMeeting12617>

1=Board meeting of Jan. 25, 2017 2=Academic & student affairs & national labs
3=Compliance & audit 4=Finance & capital strategies 5=Governance & compensation
6=Public engagement 7=Board meeting of Jan. 26, 2017

Two Items

Monday, January 30, 2017



To the Campus Community: (1-29-2017)

This past week, as most of you are well aware, President Trump signed an executive order that suspends entry into the United States for various categories of travelers. The order includes refugees, immigrants, non-immigrant visa holders, and possibly lawful U.S. permanent residents from seven majority-Muslim countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

The executive order directly challenges the core values and mission of universities to encourage the free exchange of scholars, knowledge and ideas. It may affect the ability to travel for thousands of students and scholars now in the US diligently pursuing their scholarly careers as well as countless others who wish to take advantage of our open universities to pursue knowledge and truth. Although the breadth of the Order is not yet clear, it also could adversely affect the ability to travel for many faculty, students, and staff in our own community.

Already, universities across the US as well as scholarly societies such as the APLU and the AAU have issued powerful statements decrying this action. UCLA joins this rising chorus in expressing opposition to the executive order. As your Chancellor and Executive Vice Chancellor, we want to reassure the campus community as a whole and especially those directly affected by this order that the University of California and our campus's leadership stand by our core values.

We are actively engaged with the UC Office of the President to understand the full implications of the order and to find ways of protecting members of our community. The integrity of our mission as a research university and the well-being of our campus' community are paramount.

The UC Office of the President has advised "UC community members from these seven countries who hold a visa to enter the United States or who are lawful permanent residents do not travel outside of the United States." In the meantime, if you are a student, scholar or faculty who have visa issues or questions that deserve our attention,

please contact the UCLA Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars at (310) 825-1681.

Please also see below a message that was sent today from UC President Janet Napolitano and signed by leadership from throughout the University of California.

Sincerely,
Gene D. Block
Chancellor

Scott L. Waugh
Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

===

President Janet Napolitano and the Chancellors of the University of California today (Jan. 29) issued the following statement:

We are deeply concerned by the recent executive order that restricts the ability of our students, faculty, staff, and other members of the UC community from certain countries from being able to enter or return to the United States.

While maintaining the security of the nation's visa system is critical, this executive order is contrary to the values we hold dear as leaders of the University of California. The UC community, like universities across the country, has long been deeply enriched by students, faculty, and scholars from around the world, including the affected countries, coming to study, teach, and research. It is critical that the United States continues to welcome the best students, scholars, scientists, and engineers of all backgrounds and nationalities.

We are committed to supporting all members of the UC community who are impacted by this executive action.

President Janet Napolitano
University of California

Chancellor Nicholas B. Dirks
University of California, Berkeley

Interim Chancellor Ralph Hexter
University of California, Davis

Chancellor Howard Gillman
University of California, Irvine

Chancellor Gene Block
University of California, Los Angeles

Chancellor Dorothy Leland
University of California, Merced

Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox

University of California, Riverside

Chancellor Pradeep Khosla
University of California, San Diego

Chancellor Sam Hawgood
University of California, San Francisco

Chancellor Henry T. Yang
University of California, Santa Barbara

Chancellor George R. Blumenthal
University of California, Santa Cruz

Good by Comparison

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

Colleges and Universities with the Largest Endowments			
Institution	2015 Endowment Value (in \$1,000)	2016 Endowment Value (in \$1,000)	Percent Change
Harvard University	36,440,917	36,541,203	0.3
Yale University	24,572,100	24,458,800	-0.5
The University of Texas	14,083,130	14,203,213	0.8
Stanford University	11,222,887	11,398,330	1.6
University of Wisconsin	10,723,473	10,782,880	0.6
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	11,474,743	11,181,515	-2.6
University of California	10,133,869	10,715,364	5.7
The Texas A&M University System and Foundations	10,477,202	10,139,526	-3.2
University of Michigan	9,052,113	9,741,461	7.7
Northwestern University	11,193,017	9,648,497	-13.0
Columbia University	9,639,085	9,041,027	-6.2
University of Texas at Austin	8,866,952	8,374,081	-5.5
University of California	7,897,099	8,341,073	5.6
The University of Chicago	7,849,710	7,601,204	-3.2
University of Wisconsin-Madison	7,296,545	6,839,780	-6.3
University of Washington	6,818,748	6,481,717	-4.9
University of Texas at Dallas	6,884,305	6,403,850	-7.0
University of Virginia	6,280,815	6,382,209	1.6
University of Michigan	6,017,844	6,787,722	12.8
University of California	5,551,470	5,324,490	-4.1
University of California	4,709,811	4,808,714	2.1
University of California	4,683,401	4,674,404	-0.2
University of California	4,131,842	3,922,187	-5.1
University of California	3,818,730	3,802,312	-0.4
University of California	3,633,887	3,576,562	-1.6

[Click on image to enlarge.] Inside Higher Ed finds UC's endowment return to be better than most in FY 2016. See : <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/01/31/endowment-returns-fell-2016>

New Developments

Tuesday, January 31, 2017



Inside Higher Ed reports on a movement to boycott U.S. academic conferences in response to recent executive actions of the Trump administration:

The new target of the academic boycott movement is the United States. More than 3,000 academics from around the world have signed on to a call to boycott international academic conferences held in the United States in solidarity with those affected by Trump's executive order barring entry by nationals of seven Muslim-majority countries. The ban on entry into the U.S. has left some students and scholars with valid visas stranded outside the country while others are stuck inside it, unable to leave the U.S. for personal or professional reasons for fear they won't be let back in. The entry ban, which affects nationals from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, has been widely condemned as discriminatory and as undermining values central to American higher education such as inclusion, openness and internationalism. Civil rights groups have described it as a pretext for banning the entry of Muslims, which Trump explicitly called for during his campaign. "When we saw the recent news about what's been dubbed the Muslim ban, we questioned what we could do as academics," said Nadine El-Enany, a lecturer in law at Birkbeck School of Law at the University of London and an organizer of the call to boycott conferences. "As academics, we felt that the best way that we could demonstrate very clearly that we are unwilling to benefit from privileges that are so unfairly, unjustly denied others is to refuse to take up those privileges but also to clearly indicate that our business, as educators, cannot go on as normal while such an emergency is happening," said El-Enany, who has withdrawn from an upcoming conference on law, culture and the humanities hosted by Stanford University. Signatories to the document calling for a boycott of international conferences held in the U.S. pledge not to attend them while the ban is in place. The document goes on to state, "We question the intellectual integrity of these spaces and the dialogues they are designed to encourage while Muslim colleagues are explicitly excluded from them."... Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/01/31/protest-trump-entry-ban-some-scholars-are-boycotting-us-based-conferences>

The president of MIT sent out the message below: To the members of the MIT community, For those of you who have been following the developments at MIT since Friday, I was hoping to write to you today with some uplifting news. Yet, as I write, we continue to push hard to bring back to MIT those members of our community, including two undergraduates, who were barred from the US because of the January 27 Executive Order on immigration. We are working personally with all the affected individuals we are aware of. If you know of other students, faculty or staff who are directly affected, please inform us immediately so we can try to help... Over and over since the order was issued, I have been moved by the outpouring of support from hundreds across our community. I could not be more proud, and I am certain that you join me in thanking everyone inside and outside of MIT whose extraordinary efforts have helped us address this difficult situation. We hope we can welcome everyone back to MIT very soon.

MIT, the nation and the world

I found the events of the past few days deeply disturbing. The difficulty we have encountered in seeking to help the individuals from our community heightens our overall sense of concern. I would like to reflect on the situation we find ourselves in, as an institution and as a country.

MIT is profoundly American. The Institute was founded deliberately to accelerate the nation's industrial revolution. With classic American ingenuity and drive, our graduates have invented fundamental technologies, launched new industries and created millions of American jobs. Our history of national service stretches back to World War I; especially through the work of Lincoln Lab, we are engaged every day in keeping America safe. We embody the American passion for boldness, big ideas, hard work and hands-on problem-solving. Our students come to us from every faith, culture and background and from all fifty states. And, like other institutions rooted in science and engineering, we are proud that, for many of our students, MIT supplies their ladder to the middle class, and sometimes beyond. We are as American as the flag on the Moon.

At the same time, and without the slightest sense of contradiction, MIT is profoundly global. Like the United States, and thanks to the United States, MIT gains tremendous strength by being a magnet for talent from around the world. More than 40% of our faculty, 40% of our graduate students and 10% of our undergraduates are international. Faculty, students, post-docs and staff from 134 other nations join us here because they love our mission, our values and our community. And – as I have – a great many stay in this country for life, repaying the American promise of freedom with their energy and their ideas. Together, through teaching, research, and innovation, MIT's magnificently global, absolutely American community pursues its mission of service to the nation and the world.

What the moment demands of us

The Executive Order on Friday appeared to me a stunning violation of our deepest American values, the values of a nation of immigrants: fairness, equality, openness, generosity, courage. The Statue of Liberty is the "Mother of Exiles"; how can we slam the door on desperate refugees? Religious liberty is a founding American value; how can our government discriminate against people of any religion? In a nation made rich by immigrants, why would we signal to the world that we no longer welcome new talent? In a nation of laws, how can we reject students and others who have established legal rights to be here? And if we accept this injustice, where will it end? Which group will be singled out for suspicion tomorrow ?

On Sunday , many members of our campus community joined a protest in Boston to make plain their rejection of these policies and their support for our Muslim friends and colleagues. As an immigrant and the child of refugees, I join them, with deep feeling, in believing that the policies announced Friday tear at the very fabric of our society.

I encourage anyone who shares that view to work constructively to improve the situation. Institutionally, though we may not be vocal in every instance, you can be confident we are paying attention; as we strive to protect our community, sustain our mission and advance our shared values, we will speak and act when and where we judge we can be most effective.

Yet I would like us to think seriously about the fact that both within the MIT community and the nation at large, there are people of goodwill who see the measures in the Executive Order as a reasonable path to make the country safer. We would all like our nation to be safe. I am convinced that the Executive Order will make us less safe. Yet all of us, across the spectrum of opinion, are Americans.

In this heated moment, I urge every one of us to avoid with all our might the forces that are driving America into two camps. If we love America, and if we believe in America, we cannot allow those divisions to grow worse. We need to imagine a shared future together,

if we hope to have one. I am certain our community can help work on this great problem, too, by starting right here at home.

Sincerely, L. Rafael Reif

--- The message above went by email to those at MIT plus alumni (of which yours truly is one).

Change in Direction

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

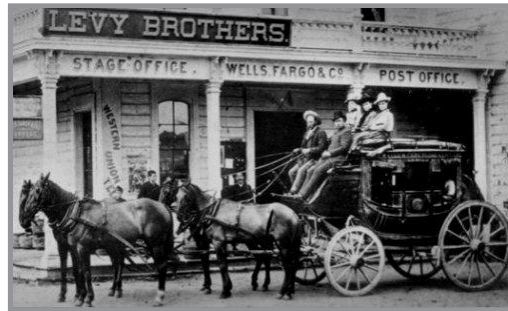


University of California administrators stopped pursuing high-dollar moonlighting positions after scrutiny of former UC Davis Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi's corporate board seats prompted tighter restrictions last year. A new UC report shows that only 11 senior managers accepted outside positions between July 21 and Nov. 30. Only three of the positions are paid, and the compensation totaled just \$9,510. That marked a dramatic shift from the array of high-paying outside jobs approved in 2015. That year, 17 managers asked to take new jobs paying a total of \$720,000, with the highest earning \$80,000 annually. Beyond that, some administrators received stock options whose value was undetermined at the time... Full story at:

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/education/article129656379.html>

Wells Fargo

Wednesday, February 01, 2017



NOTE: It is unclear from the news account below whether the action reported is "divestment" in the usual sense of removal from the endowment and/or pension portfolios or whether the contracts that are being discontinued are various financial arrangements used for ongoing operations.

UC to divest from Wells Fargo after Afrikan Black Coalition advocacy

By Revatil Thatte | 1-31-17 | [Daily Californian](#)

The University of California will terminate \$475 million worth of contracts with Wells Fargo after repeated criticism from the Afrikan Black Coalition, or ABC, over its ties to private correctional facilities. ABC alleged in a press release that Wells Fargo finances CoreCivic, a company that owns private prisons and detention centers. Additionally, in 2012, Wells Fargo settled with the U.S. Department of Justice over allegations of discrimination against African-American and Hispanic borrowers. The university terminated a \$25 million commercial paper contract with Wells Fargo in November 2016. According to the ABC press release, the university will end its \$150 million interest reset contract by April 1. Two-thirds of the \$300 million line of credit will be terminated by February, with the remaining \$100 million to be terminated as soon as a replacement bank is found...

UC Office of the President spokesperson Ricardo Vasquez confirmed the university's divestment from Wells Fargo in an email, stating that the university deemed it appropriate to sever ties in light of the bank's alleged recent activities regarding unauthorized bank and credit card accounts...

Full story at <http://www.dailycal.org/2017/01/31/uc-to-divest-from-wells-fargo-after-abc-advocacy/>

UC Approved MOOCs for High School A-G Requirements

Wednesday, February 01, 2017



From a PR release by the private company supplying the courses:

Apex Learning today announced that the University of California Office of the President (UCOP) accepted an additional 20 a-g approved Apex Learning high school courses as meeting requirements for University of California (UC) admission. With 61 previously approved courses, school districts now have access to over 80 UC a-g approved Apex Learning courses spanning the subjects of English, math, science, social studies, world languages and college preparatory electives, including 12 Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

UCOP indicated that the new courses fulfill the UC system's a-g subject requirements, which aim to ensure students enter the UC system college ready. According to the California Curriculum Integrity Institute, approved courses must be academically challenging and must require substantial reading, writing, problem solving and analytical thinking, while also developing students' verbal and listening skills. "We know from our research that Apex Learning courses are the most rigorous online courses available," said Cheryl Vedoe, CEO, Apex Learning. "We are excited about the University of California's approval of additional courses because it allows districts to expand use of digital curriculum to achieve one of their most important goals – sufficiently preparing students for entrance to the competitive UC system." Apex Learning provides digital curriculum to schools and districts throughout California and across the country. The UC a-g approved Apex Learning courses now include:

- Eleven history and social studies courses (a);
- Seventeen English language arts classes (b);
- Fourteen mathematics courses (c);
- Nine laboratory science courses (d);
- Eight languages other than English (e);
- Twenty-two college preparatory electives (g)...

Full release at <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2017/02/prweb14028509.htm>

Climate

Wednesday, February 01, 2017

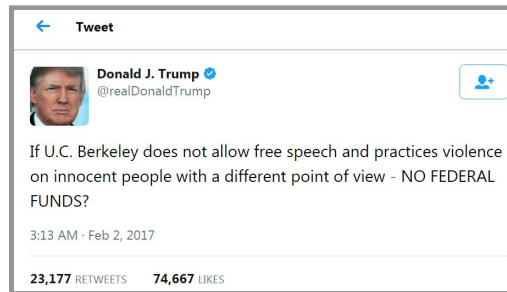


From the San Francisco Chronicle:

Thousands of University of California and California State University faculty members are warning President Trump that deviating from the Paris Climate Agreement — as administration officials have recently hinted he might — would undermine the “future of our children and grandchildren.” More than 2,300 faculty members throughout both public school systems signed an open letter to Trump released Tuesday. The president has in the past called climate change a “hoax.” ... Full story at <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Trump-update-UC-faculty-sends-president-warning-10898068.php> The letter is at: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PKBnTWIGk_YNmDqaO_7ckSK_s5P3J2Gygy7WTQCfY/edit Using a search, I found well over 200 UCLA names on the letter as signatories.

Tweet

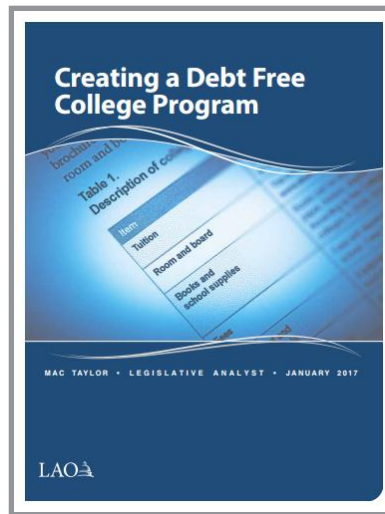
Thursday, February 02, 2017



A bit of history: Jerry Brown's first move into politics was to get himself elected to the Los Angeles Community College Board in 1969. He campaigned against the student demonstrations at Berkeley and elsewhere. In the background was the fact that his dad had lost the governorship in 1966 to Ronald Reagan who had campaigned against those same demonstrations. It will be interesting to see how Brown reacts - if he does.

LAO on Debt-Free College

Thursday, February 02, 2017



Executive Summary of Legislative Analyst's Office report: [excerpts]

Report Considers Design and Cost of a "Debt Free College" Program. *The Supplemental Report of the 2016-17 Budget Act directs our office to provide the Legislature with options for creating a new state financial aid program intended to eliminate the need for students to take on college debt. The reporting language envisions a program under which the state covers all remaining college costs (tuition and living expenses) after taking into account available federal grants, an expected parent contribution, and an expected student contribution from work earnings. Though not specified in the reporting language, our understanding of the intent is for the program to focus on resident undergraduate students attending public colleges in California.*

Program Likely to Limit but Not Eliminate Student Loan Debt. *The debt free college program described in the reporting language is based upon what some financial aid experts refer to as shared responsibility. Shared responsibility programs can be designed to provide students a pathway to debt free college. Importantly, however, these programs do not necessarily eliminate loan debt for all students. Unless programs require students to make their contribution through work, some students might prefer to borrow. Also, some students might borrow if they experience difficulty finding employment or if their parents fail to provide their full contribution...*

Program Estimated to Cost Additional \$3.3 Billion Dollars Annually. *Of this amount, \$2.2 billion is for CCC students, \$800 million is for CSU students, and \$300 million is for UC students. (These amounts are on top of all existing gift aid.) Costs vary by segment primarily due to differences in the number of students they serve, as well as some variation in current levels of gift aid per student. Though our estimate of the initial cost of a new debt free college program is based upon the best available information to us at the time this report was prepared, actual program costs over the longer term could turn out to be notably higher or lower...*

Full report at <http://lao.ca.gov/reports/2017/3540/Debt-Free-College-013117.pdf>

Chipping Away

Thursday, February 02, 2017

Note: The NLRB covers private universities and therefore not UC. However, its counterpart for public employees in California - PERB - could decide to follow NLRB practice. Indeed, it could decide to do what the NLRB does now, even if NLRB policy is later changed by Trump appointees.

NLRB Chips Away at Athlete Amateurism

Big-time college football players at private institutions should be considered employees, the National Labor Relations Board's general counsel says in new memo.

By Jake New February 2, 2017 Inside Higher Ed

Football players at **private institutions** in college sports' most competitive level are employees, the National Labor Relations Board's general counsel stated this week, and will be treated as such if they seek protection against unfair labor practices.

In a memorandum sent Tuesday to the board's regional directors, the NLRB's general counsel, Richard Griffin, wrote that "scholarship football players in Division I Football Bowl Subdivision private-sector colleges and universities are employees" under the National Labor Relations Act. While limited to granting protections under just one section of the act, the memo clarifies that football players at private FBS programs are entitled to campaign for their own interests as employees, including asking for pay, free of retaliation. There are 17 private colleges and universities in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Football Bowl Subdivision.

With the memo, Griffin continues to chip away at the NCAA's amateurism model. Last year, his office issued a similar notice regarding how private institutions govern the ways football players communicate with reporters and on social media. In that memo, he also stated that the athletes are employees.

The new memo partly answers a question left open by the full National Labor Relations Board in 2015, when it declined to assert jurisdiction over whether football players at Northwestern University could form a union. It does not reverse that ruling, however, nor does it carry the force of law. But Ramogi Huma, who led the unionization efforts at Northwestern and is executive director of the National College Players Association, said that Tuesday's memo "brings college athletes one step closer to justice."

"It's definitely historic," Huma said. "By declaring that these athletes are employees, the general counsel is saying that his office is committed to protecting college athletes' employee rights under the labor laws, and I think that can't be understated. It's what the players at Northwestern set in motion, and this is a major milestone."

The NLRB's 2015 decision, while narrow, effectively reversed a ruling 16 months earlier by the board's Chicago regional office saying that, under the National Labor Relations Act, scholarship football players at private universities are employees.

The university appealed the Chicago office's decision to the full National Labor Relations Board in Washington, urging the board to reverse the regional director's decision. In

amicus briefs filed in July 2014, Northwestern's argument was backed by at least eight other private colleges, six Republican members of Congress and the NCAA.

Two months earlier, Northwestern football players held a secret ballot to decide whether they would unionize, but the ballots were impounded due to the university's appeal. Following the NLRB's decision, those ballots were destroyed. The players at Northwestern said their goals for collective bargaining included increasing scholarships and coverage for sports-related medical expenses, minimizing the risk of traumatic brain injury through measures like reduced contact in practice, improving graduation rates with help from an "educational trust fund," and securing due process rights.

The board, in declining to assert jurisdiction, noted that the issue of college football players' unionizing affects both public and private institutions. And the NLRB has no authority over public institutions. So ruling in a case involving one private institution, the board suggested, would destabilize the competitive balance between public and private universities.

In Tuesday's memo, Griffin, the NLRB's general counsel, stated that by not asserting jurisdiction, the board "expressly declined to resolve the issue of whether college football players are employees under the NLRA." Scholarship FBS athletes at private institutions, Griffin wrote, "clearly satisfy the broad definition of employee and the common-law test."

"Scholarship football players should be protected [by the NLRA] when they act concertedly to speak out about aspects of their terms and conditions of employment," he wrote. "This includes, for example, any actions to: advocate for greater protections against concussive head trauma and unsafe practice methods, reform NCAA rules so that football players can share in the profit derived from their talents, or self-organize."...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/02/02/nlrb-general-counsel-says-private-college-football-players-are-employees>

Berkeley/Twitter Aftermath

Friday, February 03, 2017



Inside Higher Ed has a long article on the Twitter threat by President Trump to cut off funding from UC-Berkeley because of recent events in which violence occurred and a speech by Milo Yiannopoulos was cancelled.* Basically, the article discusses whether there is authority to cut off funding.

Generally, the article says that there is not at present such authority and that Berkeley was attempting to have the speech go forward when public safety concerns outweighed other considerations.

However, the article contains this paragraph:

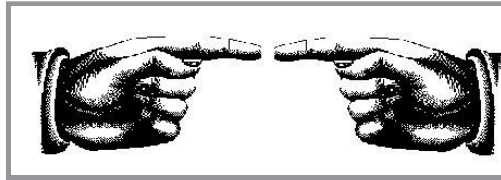
Federal laws do of course impose requirements on colleges receiving federal aid that have nothing to do with the aid, per se. And some members of Congress have used such laws to oppose certain trends on campuses. In the 1980s, U.S. Representative Gerald Solomon, a New York Republican, attached to several appropriations bills provisions that cut off federal funds to institutions that did not permit military recruiters on campus. At the time, many law schools did ban military recruiters, saying that the military's anti-gay discrimination (since ended) violated institutional policies. In 2005, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the law.

So, apart from the specifics of the Berkeley situation, Congress could create such authority, a possibility that can't be dismissed given its current political leanings.

* <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/02/03/experts-say-trump-cannot-cut-berkeleys-funds-despite-his-tweet>

Finger Pointing

Saturday, February 04, 2017



Berkeley Mayor, UC Police Union Criticize Campus Over Plans for Milo Yiannopoulos Protest

By Ted Goldberg, Feb. 3, 2017, [KQED News](#)

UC Berkeley could have done a better job in preparing for the violent protests that led to the cancellation of an on-campus speech by Breitbart News commentator Milo Yiannopoulos Wednesday, according to Berkeley's mayor and the union that represents university police officers.

The protest against Yiannopoulos, the right-wing provocateur criticized for racist, misogynist, anti-transgender and white supremacist statements, caused about \$100,000 in damage to campus property and led to the vandalism of more than a dozen businesses in downtown Berkeley and along Telegraph Avenue.

"In the end, this was a decision that I didn't make, that the City Council didn't make. This was a decision of the university," Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin said in an interview.

"I think the university should have consulted with the city before they made the decision to invite this person to the campus," Arreguin said. "There should have been some serious consideration about whether he should have been invited to begin with, given the fact that he's provoked a violent response on other campuses."

UC police were in touch with Berkeley city police about the event well before Wednesday night, according to campus spokesman Dan Mogulof.

The demonstrations involved more than a thousand protesters. Campus officials say police and the university could not have anticipated that some of them would "invade" the campus to shut down the Yiannopoulos event.

The campus police department has launched an investigation into Wednesday night's violence. UC Berkeley officials say about 150 masked individuals hurled Molotov cocktails, set fires and pushed barricades into windows.

Nine people were treated for injuries at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center over a two-day period, and three men were arrested in connection with the protest.

The union that represents UC police says there wasn't a good tactical plan in place beforehand.

"They were unable to assist the citizens and the public that were out there that were

defenseless against these rioters, who were actively engaging in breaking the law and attacking defenseless citizens,” said John Bakhit, an attorney who represents the Federated University Police Officers Association.

Bakhit said in an interview that UC Berkeley police officers were ordered not to take any enforcement action against protesters who lit fires and threw rocks, bottles and fireworks at them. He said there weren’t enough officers on hand at the start of the protests to make arrests and protect the public.

“When these rioters saw that there was no action taken against them, it emboldened them into acting more aggressively,” Bakhit said.

Campus officials would not comment on the union’s criticism, but Mogulof said that civilian university staff does not interfere in law enforcement decisions.

Chancellor Nicholas Dirks and other campus officials have condemned the actions of protesters who committed vandalism.

“The violence was an attack on our fundamental values, which are maintaining and nurturing open inquiry and an inclusive, civil society — the bedrock of a genuinely democratic nation,” Dirks said in a statement. “We are now, and will remain in the future, committed to Free Speech not only as a vital component of our campus identity, but as essential to our educational mission.”

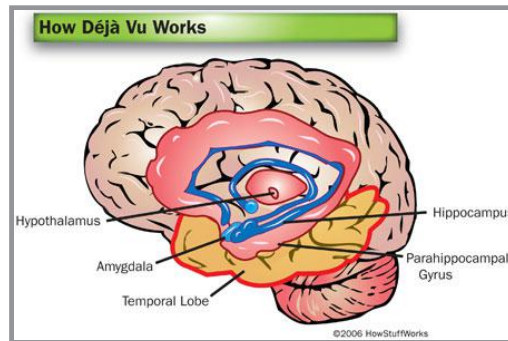
Hours after the protest, President Donald Trump suggested possible cuts to federal funding for UC Berkeley in a tweet that prompted sharp criticism from Rep. Barbara Lee, whose district includes Berkeley.

Source: <https://ww2.kqed.org/news/2017/02/03/berkeley-mayor-uc-police-union-criticize-campus-over-plans-for-milo-yiannopolous-protest/>

That’s Berkeley. At least at Santa Cruz, they have a history of knowing whose fault it is:

Déjà vu

Sunday, February 05, 2017



If you have a feeling of déjà vu after reading the item below, it's real. It happened at Davis recently. First the riot and cancellation. Then the return.

Milo Yiannopoulos made an announcement Saturday morning that may have members of the East Bay up in arms all over again. He says he is planning on returning to Berkeley to give the speech he was unable to deliver earlier this week when chaos broke out over his appearance. "I'm planning to return to Berkeley to give the speech I was prevented from delivering," Yiannopoulos said in a Facebook post. "Hopefully within the next few months. I'll keep you posted."... Full story at <http://news10.com/2017/02/04/milo-yiannopoulos-to-return-to-university-of-california-determined-to-give-speech/>

Note: Conservative social media claim to have ID'd a UC-Berkeley employee who assaulted someone attending the canceled talk.

Undergrad Students Assn. Opposes Measure S

Monday, February 06, 2017



Screen grab from USAC website The UCLA Undergraduate Students Association (USAC) apparently is opposing the "slow growth" initiative - Measure S - that will be on the LA City ballot of March 7.

From the USAC website:

*...Measure S, a citywide ballot initiative, will **DRASTICALLY LIMIT NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT** across the city. In Westwood, new projects will be capped at a maximum of 3 stories tall. As Bruins, we already face some of the highest housing costs in the nation and a limit on new housing construction is the last thing we need...*

Source: <https://uclaevp.com/no-on-measure-s/>

There is a schedule of planned political events at that website.

See also the video below from the USAC Facebook page, starting at minute 1:00:

Berkeley Crowd Control Policy May Reverse

Monday, February 06, 2017



According San Francisco Chronicle columnists Matier & Ross, UC-Berkeley is hinting at a change in crowd control policy in reaction to the confrontation over the Milo Yiannopoulos talk:

"Black bloc" anarchists demonstrate Wednesday at UC Berkeley, forcing the cancellation of right-wing provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos' speech. The police backed off as the anarchists destroyed property. When it comes to its treatment of anarchist protesters like the ones who trashed Sproul Plaza the other night, UC Berkeley's attitude amounts to this: We'd rather deal with broken windows than broken heads.

The result was about \$100,000 in damage to the campus — and a worldwide image of UC police standing by as "black bloc" protesters fired bottle rockets at them and used police barricades as battering rams to break the windows of the Martin Luther King Jr. Student Union, where right-wing commentator Milo Yiannopoulos was scheduled to speak.

It wasn't just the building that took damage. Some people who the anarchists concluded were there to hear Yiannopoulos were attacked, and one of the organizers of the Berkeley College Republicans, who were hosting the Breitbart News website editor, was splashed with red paint.

Police made no attempt to stop the attack or arrest any of the rioters. It was a legacy, in part, of the infamous incident during the Occupy protests of 2011 in which a UC Davis police officer shot pepper spray directly into the faces of peaceful, seated demonstrators on the campus quad.

After that PR disaster — which resulted in UC agreeing to a nearly \$1 million lawsuit settlement — the university rewrote its police rules to mandate that officers use the minimum amount of force needed to ensure the maximum safety of everyone involved. Taking on the anarchists at the Berkeley protest with batons and tear gas might have resulted in arrests, but it would also have resulted in injuries — and not just to black bloc types. The hundreds of demonstrators who were behaving peacefully would have been in the middle of the mess.

"We're not talking about people who, if you try to arrest them, are going to say, 'I'm sorry'

and just let themselves be cuffed and taken in,” UC Berkeley spokesman Dan Mogulof said of the anarchists. “There would have been confrontations that involved innocent bystanders, and we would have had far more than the six injuries we had.”

Having the police scurry for cover may have been a bad look on TV, but it was an easy call for campus officials, Mogulof said. “It was too dangerous for everyone.”

Something happened Wednesday, however, that is causing law enforcement officials to re-examine their procedures. In the past, when violent protesters have shown up at East Bay demonstrations, they’ve mixed with the crowd and used peaceful protesters as human cover. This time, the 100 or so black bloc anarchists marched brazenly up Bancroft Way and into Sproul Plaza after the protest was under way, lined up directly in front of their target and attacked.

It was as if they knew no one would stop them — which turned out to be the case.

“That is a real game changer,” Mogulof said...

Full column at <http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/matier-ross/article/Why-UC-police-let-anarchists-run-wild-in-Berkeley-10908034.php>

Berkeley Rumors

Monday, February 06, 2017



Former Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory chief **Paul Alivisatos** has emerged as the front-runner to replace UC Berkeley Chancellor **Nicholas Dirks**, who plans to exit by the end of May after a bumpy 3½-year tenure.

UC President **Janet Napolitano** has promised to name a new chancellor in time for the Board of Regents' meeting in March. Right now, all signs point to the 57-year-old Alivisatos, vice chancellor for research at UC Berkeley.

"He will have immediate credibility with a whole swath of people on campus, and if the goal is protecting our core mission — run by the hard sciences — then they got their guy," one administration insider said after the hiring sweepstakes, speaking on condition of anonymity because the selection process isn't public.

Getting someone who will protect the "core mission" took on added importance when **President Trump** questioned in a tweet whether the university should continue to receive federal funds after Wednesday night's violent protest kept right-wing provocateur **Milo Yiannopoulos** from speaking on campus.

Napolitano is expected to interview a handful of finalists for the chancellor's job within the next couple of weeks. Candidates have been drawn both from within and outside the UC system...

Full story at <http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/matier-ross/article/UC-has-a-front-runner-to-replace-Cal-s-10909324.php>

500/40

Tuesday, February 07, 2017



The State of California is among the states that have filed briefs in connection with the court case challenging the Trump immigration ban.

In one of the briefs, it is stated that 500 graduate students at the University of California are affected by the order, together with 40 undergraduates.

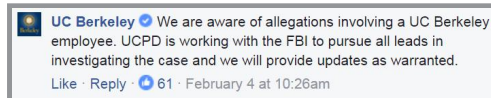
The estimate is part of evidence provided to the court that the state has an interest in the case.

You can find these figures on pdf pages 11 and 12 of the brief. (Not numbered pages.)
The brief is at:

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s3bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/uploadedfiles/Another/News/Press_Releases/States%27%
20Amicus%20Brief.pdf](http://agportal-s3bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/uploadedfiles/Another/News/Press_Releases/States%27%20Amicus%20Brief.pdf)

Berkeley Aftermath

Wednesday, February 08, 2017



As part of the aftermath of the protest and cancellation of the Milo Yiannopoulos talk at Berkeley, there is apparently an investigation of a staff member at Berkeley who is alleged to have beaten an attendee. See above. (We noted in an earlier post that conservative social media had pointed to a specific employee of UC-Berkeley who appeared on social media to have been involved in the violence.) There is also a reported conflict between the union representing campus police at Berkeley and the administration over crowd control tactics. See:

<http://www.wbng.com/story/34448055/berkeley-probes-hands-off-police-response-to-protest-chaos>

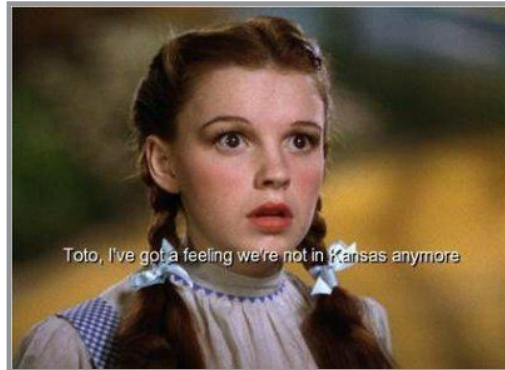
Although Yiannopoulos said he would return to Berkeley, there is no specific date or schedule.

UPDATE: There apparently was some concern before the talk that the presentation would be used to "out" undocumented students at Berkeley:

<https://alumni.berkeley.edu/california-magazine/just-in/2017-02-07/do-milos-intentions-matter>

Not in Kansas Anymore

Wednesday, February 08, 2017



A new California state law has ended discussions between Cal and Kansas about a home-and-home series in men's basketball.

"Cal said they couldn't do it," Kansas Athletics spokesperson Jim Marchiony told the Lawrence Journal-World, which reported confirmation from Kansas officials of the development.

The schools had reportedly been in preliminary talks about playing two games — one at Cal and one in Lawrence, Kansas.

Because of a new law passed in 2015, California's public colleges and universities cannot travel to Kansas schools because of a religious freedom law in that state which allows student groups to discriminate against people who don't share the group's religious beliefs, according to the Journal-World.

That includes allowing a bans of gay students from joining due to a group's religious beliefs...

Full story at <http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/02/06/cal-withdraws-from-talks-with-kansas-over-anti-lgbt-law/> (Also on today's UC Newsclips.)

Whose fault, did you say?

Thursday, February 09, 2017

From the NY Times' "public editor":

When reporters are writing about private individuals they don't typically publish the person's exact street address. First, it's usually irrelevant to the article, and more crucially, announcing the home address of anyone can be dangerous.

Here's the guidance from The New York Times stylebook:

"In writing about a person whose family might face harassment or harm, consider a general neighborhood reference instead. If an exact address seems newsworthy because of a crime or other visible event, carefully consider the potential for harm before publishing it."

That wasn't the approach taken when the Times reporter Patricia Leigh Brown described academic life for some undocumented students on the campus of the **University of California, Merced**. The 22 students, mostly first-generation immigrants from impoverished families, share life together on the top two floors of a single dorm. And each time Brown described a student, she included their dorm room number, adding some visual geography as she described their modestly decorated surroundings.

Brown writes an engaging piece, not only about these students' unlikely path to a campus of an acclaimed university, but also about education policy, which is not always easy to make engaging. Brown shows it's possible.

It's too bad that an otherwise strong piece was weakened by a decision to describe the students not just by their name, but by what is essentially their home address.

Two university administrators I contacted, both of whom were involved with The Times's story, said they believe that inclusion of the dorm name and room numbers puts the undocumented students in danger.

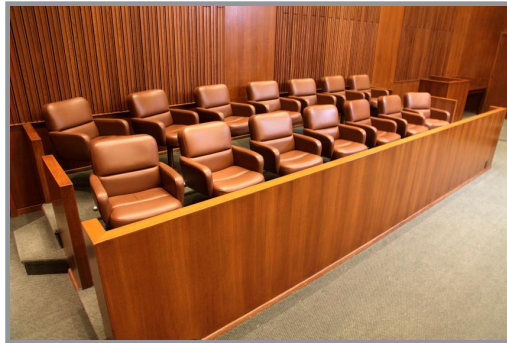
"We didn't think she (the reporter) would even use the name of the residence hall," said Alejandro Delgadillo, who oversees services for undocumented students on the campus. "To include the room numbers puts a target on these students. We engage with a great deal of media and never felt that students were at risk by the information that we were sharing. This really violated that."...

Full article at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/07/public-editor/when-details-in-a-story-can-put-people-at-risk.html>

All well and good. But while the reporter wrote the story and submitted it, the NY Times - really someone acting as an agent for the Times - made the decision to publish it with the names and locations, presumably after an editorial review and judgment. " ***That wasn't the approach taken***" doesn't identify the decision maker, although the reporter is named. So, again, whose fault was it?

Trial by Jury

Thursday, February 09, 2017



On February 7, 2017, Michele Coyle, former Chief Campus Counsel of UC Riverside, was awarded \$2.5 million by a jury in Riverside Superior Court, against the University of California. The jury found that Ms. Coyle was retaliated against in violation of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act for reporting gender discrimination at UC Riverside. The jury also found that UC General Counsel Charles Robinson (who reports to the UC Regents) and Tim White (former UC Riverside Chancellor, and current Chancellor of the California State University system) retaliated against Ms. Coyle in violation of Labor Code section 1102.5. Ms. Coyle was terminated on the eve of a federal audit to determine whether UC Riverside complied with its obligations under state and federal law to prohibit discrimination, retaliation, and harassment on the campus, in an effort to conceal information from the auditors...

Full story at <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20170208006341/en/Mira-Hashmall-Partner-Miller-Barondess-LLP-Wins>

UPDATE: Inside Higher Ed has a more complete story at:
<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2017/02/09/jury-awards-25m-former-counsel-riverside>

Berkeley Demonstration Discussed on Airtalk

Friday, February 10, 2017



From KPCC's Airtalk with Larry Mantle: (2-9-17)

Breitbart News Editor Milo Yiannopoulos' visit to UC Berkeley last week reportedly elevated some concerns about on-campus demonstrations.

According to an article by the Los Angeles Times, 100 to 150 demonstrators disrupted otherwise peaceful protests, causing a fire to erupt from a diesel-powered klieg light. Half a dozen windows were also smashed.

Claiming the incident was unprecedented, Berkeley officials are looking to strike a balance between free speech and keeping protests from becoming violent. Larry speaks to UC Berkeley campus police and officials today to find out how they plan to move forward.

Guests: Dan Mogulof, assistant vice chancellor and spokesperson for UC Berkeley, Margo Bennett, UC Berkeley campus police chief, Joe Cohn, Legislative and Policy Director for the Foundation of Individual Rights in Education (FIRE)

You can hear it at:

https://media.scpr.org/audio/upload/2017/02/09/UC_Berkeley_and_the_changing_dynamic_of_student_protests-0409a68a.mp3

On track, kind of

Friday, February 10, 2017



The state controller is reporting that revenues for the first seven months of the fiscal year are about on track with projections. But which track? The January comparison of projected revenues vs. actual uses the projections from the governor's budget proposal made in January. So it is hardly likely that it would be off by much. Compared to the projections made last June when the current budget was enacted, revenues are about \$400 million below estimates. That's certainly not something to panic about. We still await the dollop of revenue that will come in when income taxes are due in April. But, on the other hand, it means that the state is not flush with revenue.

The controller's report is at <http://sco.ca.gov/Files-ARD/CASH/January%202017%20Statement%20of%20General%20Fund%20Cash%20Receipts%20and%20Disbursements.pdf>

UCLA History: Easy Rider

Saturday, February 11, 2017



Easy Rider opens in the Fox theater one block from UCLA, 1969

Interesting Interview with President of MIT

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Here's what the president of MIT thinks of the Trump administration's early moves

Deborah Netburn, LA Times, 2-11-17

The student's email arrived early on Jan. 28. It was addressed to Rafael Reif, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The undergraduate didn't want to bother him, she wrote, but she was stuck overseas and unable to return to campus because of the White House's newly imposed travel ban.

It was 6:37 a.m., but Reif didn't hesitate. He immediately contacted three of his top aides to help her and two other students in similar straits.

"These people worked around the clock to make sure these kids made it home," he said. "They didn't sleep."

One week later, the students were safely back in Cambridge, but in the midst of the ordeal, Reif wrote a letter to the MIT community expressing his thoughts on the situation. He wrote that the research university, founded in 1861, was at once uniquely American and profoundly global.

"Like the United States, and thanks to the United States, MIT gains tremendous strength by being a magnet for talent from around the world," he wrote. In that light, he said, the executive order appeared to him "a stunning violation of our deepest American values, the values of a nation of immigrants: fairness, equality, openness, generosity, courage."

Reif is an immigrant himself. Born and educated in Venezuela, he came to the U.S. as a graduate student, earning his doctorate in electrical engineering from Stanford University. He joined the MIT faculty in 1980 and became its president in 2012.

Reif stopped by the Los Angeles Times this week to discuss science in the age of Trump and MIT's plan for the next four years.

Why do you think the scientific community has been so vocal in its opposition to the travel ban?

I believe the reasons are obvious. Scientists love to collaborate and work with people who see things from a different perspective. When people work together to address big challenges — whether it's climate change or fresh water access or Alzheimer's — you start recognizing people for what they can contribute to the big mission. It doesn't matter where you came from. It is irrelevant.

We have students from Turkey being supervised by faculty from Greece. Culturally they hate each other, but that doesn't come up at MIT because they are dealing with bigger issues than themselves.

Last week Trump threatened on Twitter to cut off federal funding for UC Berkeley because violent protests prompted the university to cancel a talk by provocateur Milo

Yiannopoulos. What are your thoughts on that?

I don't have all the details, but I understand that somebody whose views that are not politically acceptable to some members of the community was not allowed to speak. That doesn't help universities. We should allow everyone to say whatever they want. But I think having the U.S. president make a statement like that feels like an overreaction.

Are you concerned Trump might continue to threaten universities with the loss of federal funds when they do something he doesn't agree with?

There are reasons to be concerned, but I would not panic.

I like to think the administration is not fully staffed yet, and that we will get to a more stable and predictable situation sometime soon. Just like I wish the president did not overreact in the tweet, I don't want to overreact either. Let's just give him a chance to settle in, get the team together, and figure out in which direction they really want to take the country.

Might federal agencies like the Department of Defense or the National Institutes of Health decide on their own to withhold funding if they think that's what the president wants?

I'm having a wait-and-see attitude. I am trying to speak as best I can for the need for us to understand each other's point of view. Let's recognize that we live in a democratic country and there are people who believe that what he tweeted was the right thing to say.

The last thing we need right now is to start a war between "us" and "them," whoever "them" are. We just have to figure out how to continue to build bridges and understand each other.

The election showed us that we are not all hearing the same information. Do you have any thoughts on how to break through people's bubbles and communicate with them?

The exercise I'm practicing, and it seems to be working, is to find somewhere that we agree and once we establish that, extrapolate. If we start by not agreeing, we will never get anywhere.

What's your plan for the next four years?

The big picture for MIT is to keep doing basic research because that is the mother of all knowledge. But we don't want to stop there. We also need to identify big problems and have people working on those. To me, the health of the planet and human health are the two critical ones that drive everything.

So we have a lot to do. Every day counts. We cannot stop what we are doing and get distracted. The last thing I want is for us to get distracted by him.

Political upheaval to me is like waves on the beach. Underneath that we just have to keep going.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-mit-president-qa-20170210-story.html>

Op Ed from Dirks on Recent Protest

Monday, February 13, 2017



UC-Berkeley's (outgoing) Chancellor Nicholas Dirks pens an op ed in the student newspaper at Berkeley:

In a letter to the UC Berkeley community a week before Milo Yiannopoulos' visit, I made clear that both our campus's iconic commitment to free speech, as well as definitive First Amendment rulings by the Supreme Court, meant that we were obliged to support the invitation by a legitimate student organization of the speaker to campus. Those who suggest there was a legal path to cancellation of the event are mistaken. I also made clear that we recognized the equal right of members of the community to assemble lawfully and to protest the speaker and his views, consistent with another iconic identity of this campus around our history of protest...

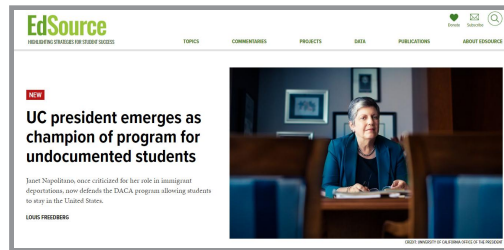
Recent op-ed submissions to this newspaper have, however, shifted the debate from one about freedom of speech and the First Amendment to naked endorsements of violent suppression of free speech in the name of supposedly higher values. While I feel strongly about my commitment to debate and disagreement, I am horrified by the call to embrace the use of violence to contest views with which we may disagree. Even if one believes that Yiannopoulos' speech might potentially have constituted some form of rhetorical violence, meeting this threat with actual physical violence is antithetical to what we, as a community dedicated to open inquiry, must and do stand for. Physical violence has absolutely no place on our campus...

Full op ed at <http://www.dailycal.org/2017/02/10/not-condone-violence-suppress-free-speech/>

Dirks was reacting to prior op eds such as <http://www.dailycal.org/2017/02/07/black-bloc-campus/>

Caution on Immigration

Tuesday, February 14, 2017



EdSource is running an article on the paradox of UC prez Napolitano now seen as the protector of DREAM students when, at the time she was hired, there were protests about her role in enforcing immigration laws during the Obama administration. See:

<https://edsource.org/2017/uc-president-emerges-as-champion-of-program-for-undocumented-students/576323>

But maybe the key sentence in the article is:

"There are many uncertainties, including, for example, what if anything the university could do if ICE agents entered a UC campus without permission."

(The answer is zilch.)

One might also note that UC is not among the universities that filed a friend-of-the-court brief contesting the Trump administration's executive order banning certain immigrants and travelers:

http://www.princeton.edu/main/news/archive/S48/69/99M52/Princeton_amicus_brief_0217.pdf

Our Annual UCLA Valentine Video

Tuesday, February 14, 2017



Report on DACA arrest

Wednesday, February 15, 2017



DACA workshop at UCLA, 2012 The NY Times is reporting on the arrest of a DACA-status individual in Seattle:

More than two years ago, Daniel Ramirez Medina, an unauthorized immigrant, applied for a special program created under the Obama administration that would allow him to stay and work in the United States.

But on Friday morning, when federal immigration agents showed up at his home in Seattle to detain his father, they took Mr. Ramirez, 23, as well. His lawyers have now sued the federal government, arguing that he is being held in custody unconstitutionally, in an "unprecedented and unjustified" case...

Full story at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/14/us/illegal-immigration-daca-arrest.html>

UPDATE: Later report says individual is alleged to be a gang member.

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/nation-world/national/article132796364.html>

So, do we put this in the lost file? Apparently not;
the legal batt...

Thursday, February 16, 2017



Maybe yes; maybe no The US patent office ruled on Wednesday that hotly disputed patents on the revolutionary genome-editing technology CRISPR-Cas9 belong to the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, dealing a blow to the University of California in its efforts to overturn those patents. In a one-sentence judgment by the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, the three judges decided that there is “no interference in fact.” In other words, key CRISPR patents awarded to the Broad beginning in 2014 are sufficiently different from patents applied for by UC that they can stand. The judges’ full 51-page decision explaining their reasoning stated that the Broad had persuaded them “that the parties claim patentably distinct subject matter.” “The Broad landed a knock-out punch,” said Jacob Sherkow of New York Law School, an expert on patent law who has followed the CRISPR case... UC said it is considering its legal options, including the possibility of an appeal, but it contended that anyone who wants to develop CRISPR-based treatments for human diseases would have to license not only the Broad’s patents but also those that UC expects to be awarded. “Ours,” Doudna told reporters, “is for the use [of CRISPR] in all cells,” including human ones. The Broad said in a statement that the decision “confirms that the patents and applications of Broad Institute and UC Berkeley are about different subjects and do not interfere with each other.”... Full story at <https://www.statnews.com/2017/02/15/crispr-patent-ruling/>

Learning from History

Thursday, February 16, 2017



Clio, Muse of History UCLA received a \$5 million donation Wednesday to establish a center to apply historical research to modern-day problems. Alumnus Meyer Luskin, one of the namesakes of the Luskin School of Public Affairs, stipulated his gift would fund the Luskin Center for History and Policy, which will have the mission of furthering the study of historical events and how that knowledge is useful in creating effective public policy. UCLA officials said the new center will be the first of its kind on the West Coast, unique in its aim not only to provide education, but also encourage a more applied relationship between historical research and policy. The center aims to bring different departments of campus together in order to promote the sharing of knowledge and implementation of relevant projects. The center will pursue policy-oriented research from humanities and social science faculty. It will also host visiting scholars and postdoctoral fellows, provide funding for graduate students and sponsor new courses to train students to analyze historical events and apply their knowledge to current issues... Full story at <http://dailybruin.com/2017/02/15/alumnus-meyer-luskin-donates-5m-to-fund-center-for-history-policy/>

MOOCs

Friday, February 17, 2017



The myth that online education courses cost less to produce and therefore save students money on tuition doesn't hold up to scrutiny, a survey of distance education providers found. The survey, conducted by the WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET), found that most colleges charge students the same or more to study online. And when additional fees are included, more than half of distance education students pay more than do those in brick-and-mortar classrooms. The higher prices -- what students pay -- are connected to higher production costs, the survey found. Researchers asked respondents to think about 21 components of an online course, such as faculty development, instructional design and student assessment, and how the cost of those components compares to a similar face-to-face course. The respondents -- administrators in charge of distance education at 197 colleges -- said nine of the components cost more in an online course than in a face-to-face course, while 12 cost about the same... Full story with link at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/02/17/study-challenges-cost-and-price-myths-online-education> So, not so cheap, cheap:

Alternative Approach for Next Time

Saturday, February 18, 2017



Next time, if he comes again to Berkeley (or any other UC campus), the better approach seems to be to stay calm, roll your eyes, let him talk until he's bored. From the SF Chronicle:

After a week of questions about whether Milo Yiannopoulos should be allowed on "Real Time with Bill Maher," viewers probably expected fireworks — if not fire and brimstone. But the Breitbart editor and professional troll fizzled. Yiannopoulos kept trying to work in his "ain't I a stinker" Bugs Bunny routine while Maher kept trying to talk about ideas and shared ground, until even Maher seemed bored. Yiannopoulos failed to either incite the audience or provide any of his staged "look at how liberals can't handle me!" moments. In the end, it felt less like a debate or even a conversation, and more like an indulgent parent had impatiently tried find common ground with a teenager shouting the f-word in church... Full story at <http://www.sfgate.com/entertainment/the-wrap/article/Real-Time-Milo-s-Right-Wing-Bugs-Bunny-10942227.php>

Bus services changes to UCLA

Saturday, February 18, 2017



UCLA... will see more service on Rapid 12, for better connectivity to Metro's Expo Line, and schedule adjustments on weekends. Route 17 will serve UCLA's Charles E. Young Terminal, instead of Hilgard Terminal; weekday service will increase to every 20 minutes.

Furthermore, Route 18 will see schedule adjustments on weekday morning trips to UCLA and evening trips to Marina del Rey...

Source: <http://patch.com/california/santamonica/santa-monica-big-blue-bus-adding-new-routes-starting-monday>

See also: <https://www.bigbluebus.com/Routes-And-Schedules/ServiceChanges.aspx>

Title IX

Sunday, February 19, 2017



Another battle over 9? The NY Times ran an article yesterday essentially dealing with whether the Trump administration might change Title IX regulation of sexual assault. It is reproduced below. However, keep in mind when reading it that California adopted legislation on this issue:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB967

And UC adopted its own internal standards of adjudication. Unless the Trump administration were to threaten to withhold funding, California and UC would likely be unaffected by any change in federal regulation. Indeed, the issue is now so charged with political symbolism that any changes which in other circumstances might have been considered in California or in UC are now unlikely.

Universities Face Pressure to Hold the Line on Title IX

By Anemona Hartocollis, Feb. 18, 2017, NY Times

Advocates are starting a campaign to try to persuade colleges to maintain the Obama administration's tough policies for protecting women on campuses from sexual assault, even if the Trump administration relaxes enforcement.

Many people expect the Trump administration to tilt the balance of federal guidance to make it harder to discipline the thousands of students, almost all of them men, who are accused of sexual violence against women each year.

Women's groups are leading the push, along with an organization that represents the campus administrators responsible for enforcing federal sexual assault policy — a group whose numbers have grown into the thousands in just a few years.

The main goal of those involved in the effort is to convince college presidents that the Obama-era policies have positively transformed the lives of women on college campuses.

"This is a chance to be doing what we should be doing rather than what we must be doing," said Brett Sokolow, the executive director of the Association of Title IX Administrators, which takes its name from the federal sex discrimination law.

On one side of the issue are those who believe the Trump administration could usher in a new era of stigmatizing young women who speak up when they have been sexually assaulted by fellow students. On the other are critics, including many conservative activists and lawyers, who say that young men are being demonized and having their rights trampled in campus disciplinary proceedings.

Mr. Sokolow's group has drafted a document, "The ATIXA Playbook: Best Practices for the Post-Regulatory Era," which he said would be distributed to 33,000 people at schools, colleges and universities whose job involves enforcing Title IX.

The paper's introduction notes that many critics have said colleges should not be in the business of policing sexual violence, and that this is a "politically opportune moment to offer a spirited defense" of why they should be.

End Rape on Campus, a "survivor advocacy organization," created the hashtag #DearBetsy, a reference to Betsy DeVos, the new federal education secretary, and has urged the posting of messages on Twitter in support for "sexual assault survivors" and others protected from discrimination by Title IX policies, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students.

"I want us to take a stance proactively," said Sofie Karasek, the director of education for the advocacy group. "I don't want us to just react to things that happen. I want to get ahead of whatever is going to come down the pipeline."

On Wednesday, the National Women's Law Center and other women's and student groups held a "call-in" to the Education Department, demanding that Ms. DeVos commit to the current federal sexual assault guidance.

"That was our first big action collectively," said Neena Chaudhry, the law center's senior counsel and education director. "We're looking at a Twitter storm sometime soon."

Colleges and universities are in a delicate position, reluctant to dismantle the current system for addressing sexual assault, while viewing the new administration as potentially making it less fraught for them.

"Schools must and will continue to support survivors and to be fair to both parties, we are required to do that, but federal guidance can be a straitjacket that forces schools to act in a way that may not further those goals," said Terry Hartle, the senior vice president of the American Council on Education, a higher education trade group.

Mr. Hartle acknowledged that colleges and universities chafe at the public scrutiny that comes with being put on a list of institutions under investigation, even before findings have been made. That list now numbers 309 cases at 227 colleges and universities, including Cornell, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, M.I.T., and Stanford.

He said the criteria for such federal investigations were "vague" and "ambiguous," and that colleges would like clarification.

"How do we avoid getting sued by the government?" he said.

He said that many college presidents believe disciplinary proceedings could sometimes be carried out more equitably through mediation, which could better account for complexities like memories dimmed by alcohol and stories that conflict and lack witnesses, rather than through the current system, in which there are clear winners and losers. But mediation is not now allowed.

But Mr. Hartle said that trying to reshape sexual assault policy could be politically risky.

"I think the challenge for the new administration will be to ask themselves, can this be changed in a way that does not get us killed?"

Ms. DeVos said during her confirmation hearing that it would be premature for her to take a position on Title IX, and a spokesman for her office declined to comment Friday. Sexual assault policy is carried out by the department's Office for Civil Rights, and whoever takes over that office would have a strong influence on any change in direction.

Gail Heriot, a leading critic of Obama-era policies, and a University of San Diego law professor, has been put forward as a candidate by more than 240 largely conservative activists and college faculty members, in a letter sent to the Trump administration and reported by The Chronicle of Higher Education. Among those signing were Harvey Silverglate, a co-founder of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, a free-speech group, and Heather Mac Donald, a fellow at the Manhattan Institute.

Ms. Heriot said in an email Friday that she had not heard from Ms. DeVos or anyone acting on her behalf. "I have no evidence that I am actually being considered for the job," she said.

Advocates credit the threat of federal investigations with fostering a better understanding of campus rape as a serious problem deserving of clear consequences, up to suspension and expulsion.

Critics, including prominent law school professors, say the federal guidance has trampled on the due process rights of the accused — almost always young men — by setting a low standard of evidence and by not requiring the involvement of the police and other law enforcement agencies.

"There are poorly trained administrators, faculty and students investigating alleged criminal conduct, sitting in judgment and doling out punishment," said Charles Wayne, a lawyer in Washington, who has represented more than a dozen men accused in campus proceedings.

Mr. Sokolow said his group's tracking indicated that 10,000 to 12,000 cases reach the disciplinary phase every year — many more when sexual harassment, stalking and relationship violence are counted too. Others said the number was hard to come by, but perhaps in the low thousands.

Some of the activists have been buoyed by the success of the Women's Marches the day after President Trump's inauguration, which, according to estimates, drew more than one million people in cities across the United States and more around the world.

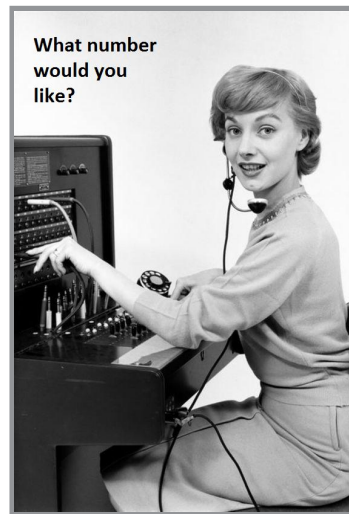
"I have called the Department of Education quite a few times and called my senator quite a few times," said Jessica Davidson, a 2016 graduate of the University of Denver and an activist with End Rape on Campus who said a fellow student had been found guilty of raping her through the campus disciplinary process.

Mr. Sokolow said that Title IX officers are prepared for whatever may come. "I'm playing a long game and looking at this as a cyclical retraction," he said. "Title IX is 45 years old. It's waxed and waned. It isn't going anywhere. We just have to figure out how to navigate it."

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/18/us/college-campuses-title-ix-sexual-assault.html>

Fake Data?

Monday, February 20, 2017



Happy Presidents' Day!

There have been concerns about pressures under the new regime that could arise to manipulate data for policy objectives, i.e., to make things look better or worse, depending on someone's desire. Federal data of all types are used for research purposes and to track trends. It goes without saying that manipulation is a Bad Thing.

Report: Trump administration eyes changes to trade deficit calculations

By Evelyn Rupert - 02/19/17 [The Hill](#)

The Trump administration is considering changing how U.S. trade deficits are calculated, a move that would make the deficit look larger on paper, the Wall Street Journal reported.

People involved in the discussions told the Journal that the leading idea is to count "re-exports" — goods that are imported to the U.S., and then exported to a third country unchanged — as imports, but not exports.

The change would inflate the trade deficit number, an important figure in trade negotiations and policy.

For example, under new calculations, the \$63.1 billion trade deficit with Mexico last year would become a \$115.4 billion deficit.

One person familiar with the discussions told the WSJ that the new methodology could even convert a trade surplus into a deficit.

Trump has vowed to renegotiate major U.S. trade deals, arguing that existing arrangements are unfair to the U.S.

People familiar with discussions told the Journal that employees at the U.S. Trade

Representative's office complied when asked to prepare data using the new method — but they included their opinions about why they believe such calculations are inaccurate.

One source said the employees were told the numbers would be presented to members of Congress.

Trump trade officials said discussions are preliminary and there are several options on the table.

"We're not even close to a decision on that yet," Payne Griffin, the deputy chief of staff at the office of the U.S. Trade Representative, told the WSJ. "We had a meeting with the Commerce Department, and we said, 'Would it be possible to collect those other statistics?'"

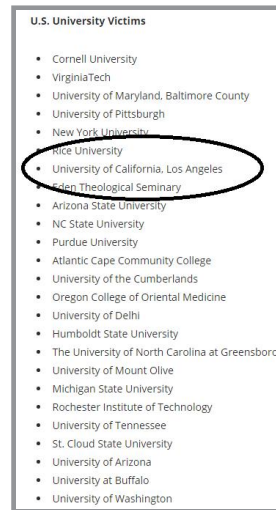
Source: <http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/320320-report-trump-administration-eyes-changes-to-trade-deficit>

Data manipulation attempts have happened before. There is the earlier Nixon example. Nixon had a belief that there were conspiracies in the statistical agencies to make him look bad, e.g., starting at minute 4:57 in <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQjiSQKlpS8> (Aide Charles Colson tended to fan his conspiracy beliefs; in contrast, George Shultz would calm him down: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qV84JmgwVE>)

And, of course, there was Nixon's infamous belief in a Jewish cabal within the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS): <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2012/10/05/there-was-one-president-who-tried-to-manipulate-bls/>

We made the list!

Monday, February 20, 2017



Unfortunately, it's a list of universities that were hacked by a Russian intruder nicknamed **Rasputin**:

<https://www.recordedfuture.com/recent-rasputin-activity/>

and

<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2017/02/20/universities-breached-russian-hacker>

We didn't make this list

Monday, February 20, 2017



Our previous post indicated UCLA had found itself on one list. But it was MIA on the list below:

A Message to the President

The following letter by forty-eight US university presidents and chancellors was sent to President Trump on February 2, 2017.

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
United States of America

Dear President Trump:

We write as presidents of leading American colleges and universities to urge you to rectify or rescind the recent executive order closing our country's borders to immigrants and others from seven majority-Muslim countries and to refugees from throughout the world. If left in place, the order threatens both American higher education and the defining principles of our country.

The order specifically prevents talented, law-abiding students and scholars from the affected regions from reaching our campuses. American higher education has benefited tremendously from this country's long history of embracing immigrants from around the world. Their innovations and scholarship have enhanced American learning, added to our prosperity, and enriched our culture. Many who have returned to their own countries have taken with them the values that are the lifeblood of our democracy. America's educational, scientific, economic, and artistic leadership depends upon our continued ability to attract the extraordinary people who for many generations have come to this country in search of freedom and a better life.

This action unfairly targets seven predominantly Muslim countries in a manner inconsistent with America's best principles and greatest traditions. We welcome outstanding Muslim students and scholars from the United States and abroad, including the many who come from the seven affected countries. Their vibrant contributions to our institutions and our country exemplify the value of the religious diversity that has been a hallmark of American freedom since this country's founding. The American dream depends on continued fidelity to that value.

We recognize and respect the need to protect America's security. The vetting procedures already in place are rigorous. Improvements to them should be based on evidence, calibrated to real risks, and consistent with constitutional principle.

Throughout its history America has been a land of opportunity and a beacon of freedom in the world. It has attracted talented people to our shores and inspired people around the globe. This executive order is dimming the lamp of liberty and staining the country's reputation. We respectfully urge you to rectify the damage done by this order.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Barchi, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Joanne Berger-Sweeney, Trinity College

Lee C. Bollinger, Columbia University

Robert A. Brown, Boston University

Ronald J. Daniels, Johns Hopkins University

Nicholas B. Dirks, University of California, Berkeley

Adam F. Falk, Williams College

Patrick Gallagher, University of Pittsburgh

Amy Gutmann, University of Pennsylvania

Philip J. Hanlon, Dartmouth College

Ralph J. Hexter, University of California, Davis

Kimberly W. Benston, Haverford College

George Blumenthal, University of California, Santa Cruz

Richard H. Brodhead, Duke University

Kimberly Wright Cassidy, Bryn Mawr College

John J. DeGioia, Georgetown University

Christopher L. Eisgruber, Princeton University

Drew Gilpin Faust, Harvard University

Howard Gillman, University of California, Irvine

Andrew Hamilton, New York University

Sam Hawgood, MBBS, University of California, San Francisco

Reverend John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., University of Notre Dame

Pradeep K. Khosla, University of California, San Diego

David W. Leebron, Rice University

Wallace D. Loh, University of Maryland, College Park

David Oxtoby, Pomona College

Daniel R. Porterfield, Franklin & Marshall College

Hunter R. Rawlings III, Cornell University

Peter Salovey, Yale University

Mark Schlissel, M.D., Ph.D., University of Michigan

Barbara R. Snyder, Case Western Reserve University

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D., Stony Brook University

Claire E. Sterk, Emory University

Marvin Krislov, Oberlin College

Ron Liebowitz, Brandeis University

Anthony P. Monaco, Tufts University

Christina H. Paxson, Brown University

Carol Quillen, Davidson College

Clayton Rose, Bowdoin College

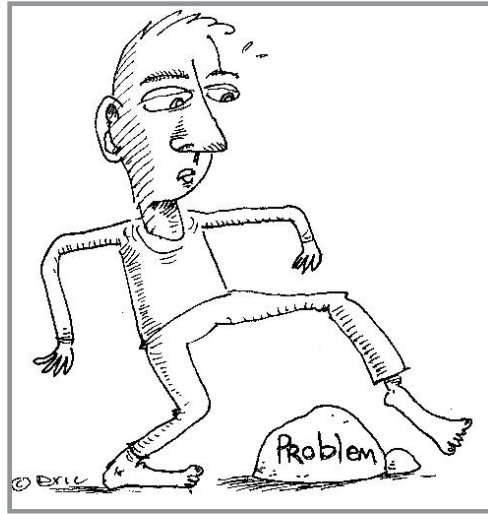
Michael H. Schill, University of Oregon

Valerie Smith, Swarthmore College
Debra L. Spar, Barnard College
Sonya Stephens, Mount Holyoke College
Marc Tessier-Lavigne, Stanford University
Satish K. Tripathi, University at Buffalo
Mark S. Wrighton, Washington University in St. Louis
Henry T. Yang, University of California, Santa Barbara
Nicholas S. Zeppos, Vanderbilt University

Source: <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2017/03/09/message-to-president-trump/>

Problem Avoided (for now)

Tuesday, February 21, 2017



It's unlikely that anyone will be inviting Milo Yiannopoulos for a return visit to Berkeley (or a visit to UCLA), given recent revelations:

Milo Yiannopoulos lost his keynote speaking slot at the Conservative Political Action Conference after tapes surfaced of the right wing provocateur and senior Breitbart editor advocating for sexual relationships between "younger boys and older men."

"Due to the revelation of an offensive video in the past 24 hours condoning pedophilia, the American Conservative Union has decided to rescind the invitation," said Matt Schlapp, chairman of the group which sponsors CPAC, in a statement Monday afternoon. The group called Yiannopoulos to "further address these disturbing comments," but defended its original decision to invite him as a nod to "the free speech issue on college campuses."...

Full story at <http://www.politico.com/story/2017/02/trump-cpac-milo-yiannopoulos-tape-235204>

Related:

<http://www.politico.com/blogs/on-media/2017/02/book-milo-yiannopoulos-canceled-235214>

<http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/320375-breitbart-employees-threaten-to-leave-over-yiannopoulos>

<http://toofab.com/2017/02/20/jake-tapper-milo-yiannopoulos-pedophilia-breitbart-cnn/>

That said, there are other Milo-types out there looking to provoke confrontations. The best way to avoid them is to avoid incidents that don't meet the sniff test on free speech and academic freedom, which - of late - UCLA seems not to be doing, e.g., <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/education/319100-ucla-banned-my-book-on-islam-from-a-free-speech-event> <https://dailybruin.com/2017/01/24/communication-studies-lecturer-claims-restrictions-on-class-enrollment/> If you wave a red flag in front of a bull, eventually he will charge.

UPDATE: <https://twitter.com/CalPolicy/status/834428593102925824>

More slippage on Master Plan

Wednesday, February 22, 2017



Every time folks in the legislature see a need for something in the field of higher ed, they come up with an ad hoc solution. The idea of an overall master plan, as there was back in the day, seems lost.

State Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, introduced a bill last week to help meet California's teacher shortage by allowing community college districts to offer teacher credentialing programs. "As a grandfather, I truly believe that educating future generations is our most important duty," Dodd said. "We need to do a better job attracting and retaining high-quality teachers.

"Our community colleges are outstanding resources that can help meet the growing need for teacher training and credentialing, especially in underserved rural and urban communities."...

Under current law, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing may authorize a California State University, University of California, private college or a local education agency to offer a program to credential teachers. However, community colleges currently do not credential teachers on their own...

Full story at <http://www.davisenterprise.com/local-news/dodds-bill-would-boost-teacher-credentialing/>

New Davis Chancellor

Wednesday, February 22, 2017



Georgia Tech engineering dean Gary S. May has been selected as the next UC Davis chancellor, University of California President Janet Napolitano announced Tuesday. May, 52, would become UC Davis' first African-American chancellor if regents approve his contract Thursday in Los Angeles. He is expected to start Aug. 1. The St. Louis native has been at Georgia Tech for nearly 30 years. He has written more than 200 technical publications and contributed to 15 books on computer-aided manufacturing of integrated circuits, on which he also holds a patent, according to Napolitano's announcement. "He is a giant in his field," said Ari Kelman, a UC Davis history professor and member of the selection committee. "He is an excellent scholar. He is a brilliant man. He is a talented and experienced leader and, as important or more important than any of that, is that he has a genuine commitment to the public mission of the University of California." May has UC ties, having earned a master's degree and doctorate in electrical engineering and computer science from UC Berkeley in 1988 and 1991, respectively... Full story at: <http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/education/article134044714.html>

Court Upholds UC Financial Aid to Undocumented Students

Thursday, February 23, 2017



The state Supreme Court rejected a conservative group's challenge Wednesday to laws that grant unauthorized immigrants who attend the University of California the same eligibility for financial benefits such as scholarships, loans and in-state tuition as other residents. California residents, regardless of immigration status, pay \$12,294 a year in tuition and fees at UC campuses. Non-residents pay an additional \$26,682. The court's action comes as political leaders in California prepare to contest President Trump's efforts to strip funding from cities and states that refuse to take part in stepped-up federal immigration enforcement and deportation efforts. In addition to the "sanctuary city" policies in San Francisco and elsewhere that limit cooperation with federal immigration agents, California has made unauthorized immigrants eligible for driver's licenses and membership in the State Bar. The court case stems from a 1996 federal law that made immigrants who lack legal status ineligible for state education benefits unless a state passed its own law that made them eligible. California lawmakers proceeded to pass statutes in 2001, 2011 and 2014 that declared unauthorized migrants eligible for in-state tuition and state-backed financial aid and loan programs. The state's high court rejected a challenge to the in-state tuition law in 2010, but Judicial Watch, a conservative nonprofit, filed a new suit contesting any such benefits at the University of California... Full story at <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Court-won-t-let-aid-to-be-taken-from-immigrant-10952578.php>

UC Prez Critiques Immigration Policy

Thursday, February 23, 2017



University of California President Janet Napolitano blasted the Trump administration's immigration crackdown on Wednesday, calling it a step backward that would make communities less safe.

Napolitano, who served as U.S. Homeland Security secretary under President Obama, said the vast expansion of deportation priorities announced by the White House this week would not work in the long run.

"The new guidance essentially makes all undocumented immigrants in the United States priorities for enforcement," she said in a statement given to The Times. "When everyone is a priority, there are essentially no priorities — and my experience as secretary of Homeland Security and governor of Arizona showed clearly that the lack of priorities undermines effective immigrant enforcement and makes our communities less safe.

"I'm also deeply concerned that such broad, ill-defined parameters will stoke fear and anxiety in immigrant communities across the nation, making immigrants — whether here legally or undocumented — much less likely to work with local law enforcement to help keep our communities safe.

"This approach is a step backward from the progress the Obama administration made to establish a more just, humane immigration system and it also fails to comprehensively address the many areas of our immigration system that need to be addressed," she said.

The Trump administration did not say what it would do with so-called Dreamers — young people brought to the country illegally as children and given protection under Obama. Napolitano said UC would continue to protect and defend such students, who number about 3,700 on its campuses.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-essential-education-updates-southern-uc-president-janet-napolitano-blasts-1487802340-htmlstory.html>

Westwood Regent Theater Will Close

Thursday, February 23, 2017



Westwood Village, once the place where big films opened in Los Angeles, is about to be down to just two remaining movie houses. The owner of the Landmark Regent Theatre on Broxton Avenue has filed plans with the city to convert the auditorium space into two restaurants, Los Angeles Magazine reports. The Regent opened in 1966 as a Laemmle theatre, in a 1946 building that originally housed retail stores — including the Oakley Barber Shop, a Westwood Village fixture now located on Gayley Avenue. Laemmle ran it until Mann Theaters took over in the 1970s. Landmark began operating the Regent in 2002. . . . Full story at : http://www.laobserved.com/archive/2017/02/westwoods_regent_theatre.php A few years ago, the theater was said to have earthquake safety issues: <http://dailybruin.com/2014/01/30/study-lists-westwood-buildings-at-risk-for-earthquake-damage/>

More on the UC Prez and Immigration

Friday, February 24, 2017

The Atlantic magazine runs a long article on the UC prez and her stance on immigration:

Why Immigrant Students Are Changing Their Minds About Janet Napolitano



When Janet Napolitano was named president of the University of California over three years ago, her appointment provoked impassioned protests by students and others upset about her role as head of the Department of Homeland Security overseeing the deportation of more than 2.5 million undocumented immigrants...

Fast forward to today. Napolitano has emerged as one of the leading defenders of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which at least for now President Trump appears to have spared, despite vowing during the presidential campaign to rescind it. The program has provided temporary relief from deportation to three-quarters of 1 million undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children, including many attending the University of California.

Students who once opposed Napolitano now welcome her support. "I am happy and appreciative that the president of the university system is responding to the needs of undocumented students at this unique time in history," said Flores, who directs the Dream Resource Center at UCLA's Labor Center, offering a range of programs on behalf of immigrant students...

Full story at <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2017/02/janet-napolitano-champion-of-daca/517539/>

Listen to the Regents: Feb. 23, 2017

Friday, February 24, 2017



Our Masters' Voices The UC Regents held a special session yesterday to confirm the appointment of Gary May as the new UC-Davis Chancellor. Apparently, they did not want to postpone the official ratification of the selection until the March meetings.

As usual, we preserve the audio of the meeting since the Regents insist on "preserving" their recording for only one year. No one knows why. Or if they do, no one will say why. So we persevere.

You can hear the meeting (under 14 minutes) at the link below:

Buried

Saturday, February 25, 2017



Sometimes, news stories are said to bury the lede, meaning that the real message is hidden in the text.

In the case below, one wonders if the lede is buried so deep that it cannot be found at all. Perhaps the real message is that adding to enrollments without sufficient additional funding is the cause of the shortage.

From the Bruin:

Some graduate students teach undergraduate courses outside of their departments because of a shortage in teaching assistants. There has been a teaching assistant shortage in divisions like life sciences and physical sciences because the undergraduate student population has increased faster than the graduate student population over the past few years, said Victoria Sork, dean of the life sciences division. She said that because of this deficit, some TAs from the engineering and public health departments, which have fewer undergraduate classes and subsequently fewer teaching positions, have begun instructing courses in the life sciences... Full story at <http://dailybruin.com/2017/02/23/ta-shortage-requires-graduate-students-to-teach-outside-departments/>

Why are these folks smiling?

Sunday, February 26, 2017



REGENTS HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE

Date: March 3, 2017

Location: Luskin Conference Center, Centennial Hall, Salons C & D, Los Angeles Campus

12:30 pm - Closed Session

1:00 pm - Open Session

*Public Comment Period

*Action Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of December 5, 2016

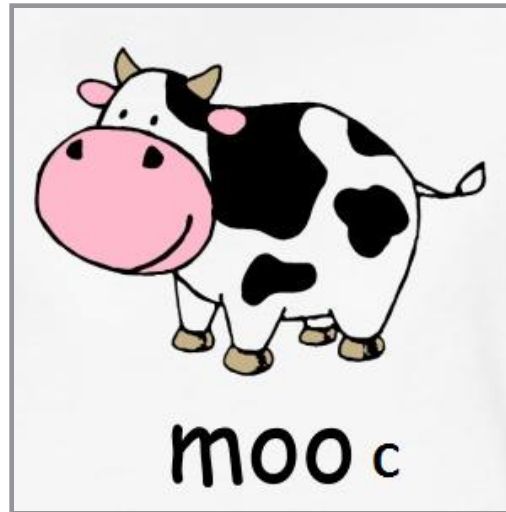
*H3 Discussion Remarks of the Executive Vice President – UC Health

***H4 Action Approval of Salary Adjustment Using Non-State Funds for President, UCLA Health System (John Mazziota - left) and Chief Executive Officer, UCLA Hospital System, Los Angeles Campus as Discussed in Closed Session (Johnese Spisso - right)**

See <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/mar17/health.pdf> and <https://www.uclahealth.org/our-leadership>

No happy returns

Monday, February 27, 2017



The Returns to Online Postsecondary Education

by Caroline M. Hoxby - National Bureau of Economic Research working paper #23193

Abstract: *This study analyzes longitudinal data on nearly every person who engaged in postsecondary education that was wholly or substantially online between 1999 and 2014. It shows how much they and taxpayers paid for the education and how their earnings changed as a result. I compute both private returns-on-investment (ROIs) and social ROIs, which are relevant for governments--especially the federal government. The findings provide little support for optimistic prognostications about online education. It is not substantially less expensive than comparable in-person education. Students themselves pay more for online education than in-person education. Online enrollment usually does raise a person's earnings, but almost never by enough to cover the social cost of the education. There is scant evidence that online enrollment moves people toward jobs associated with higher labor productivity. Calculations indicate that federal taxpayers fund most of the cost of online postsecondary education and are extremely unlikely to recoup their investment in the form of higher future tax payments by former students. The evidence also suggests that many online students will struggle to repay their federal loans.*

Source: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w23193>

Harvard goes to DC

Tuesday, February 28, 2017



Hello, Jared and Steve Harvard ramps up lobbying as Trump is seen as threat

Christopher Rowland, Boston Globe, February 27, 2017

WASHINGTON — Harvard president Drew Faust is ramping up efforts to protect the university from upheaval during the Trump administration, shuttling to Washington this week to make the case for ongoing scientific funding and the continued free flow of foreign students and academics.

Trump's travel restriction and plan to aggressively boost military spending — potentially at the expense of National Institutes of Health budgets — pose threats to Harvard, which is one of the biggest economic engines in Massachusetts.

The college spent about \$600,000 last year lobbying officials to make sure the federal tap continues to flow. It also is closely monitoring tax overhaul plans that could reduce or eliminate deductions for charitable giving and impose taxes on the university's huge endowment.

Faust is visiting Washington to make the case directly to members of Congress. It follows a similar trip she made in January, when she met with the Senate leaders from each party, Republican Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Democrat Chuck Schumer of New York.

Harvard has typically been able to rely on a big network of alumni in any new presidential administration, but Trump's White House seems to have fewer than the norm. The most notable officials with ties to Harvard are bachelor's degree holder Jared Kushner, Trump's son in law, and Steve Bannon, the top adviser who is a key engineer of the Trump revolution under way in the capital. Bannon went to Harvard Business School.

"This administration seems unpredictable in many ways," Faust told editors and reporters at a lunch hosted by Bloomberg News. "It doesn't seem tied to the traditional notions of the role of government. And so [the new White House's] understanding of this long relationship between federal government and higher education is unclear to us."

These same worries are echoed in halls of academia across the Bay State and the country, as university presidents, medical school administrators, and laboratory scientists

grapple with the fallout of Trump's surprising election.

They view research budgets as especially vulnerable to cuts Trump is mandating to help pay for his planned surge in defense spending. Trump's pledges to leave Social Security and Medicare alone will magnify pressure on other areas of the budget.

"When we look at the nature of the budget that Trump is said to be considering, with huge increases in defense spending and no reductions in entitlements, it's not clear where the kind of support would come from" to keep scientific research dollars intact, Faust said.

Climate scientists would be severely impacted by the president's proposed cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency, she added. "The state of the EPA and the threats to eviscerating its foundations are very much in the minds of our researchers. They are very anxious about where funding came from," Faust said.

Harvard will continue to advocate for the integrity of rigorous science, she said, while avoiding the ideological fray as an institution. She compared the college's mission to the media's efforts to dig out facts.

"We, too, define our identity in that way. We are about knowledge, facts — veritas — truth," said Faust.

Faust telegraphed, in remarks to arts and sciences faculty in December, what she viewed as the need to personally advocate for Harvard in Washington. "I anticipate that this work will consume a considerable portion of my time and attention in the months to come," she said then.

She was among several dozen university leaders who wrote to Trump Feb. 2 objecting to his executive order temporarily banning travel to the United States by refugees and citizens of seven majority-Muslim countries, calling it unfair, counter to American principles, and chilling on international academic exchange.

The hastily produced ban has been stayed by federal courts, but Trump is expected to issue a revised ban this week, one designed to better overcome legal challenges.

A Swiss scientist who has worked at Harvard since the 1990s recently told Faust he would rather pursue his work in Switzerland, Faust said Monday, telling her in a letter, "I feel unwelcome here."

Faust has established the position of Muslim chaplain to counsel students who are coping with the travel ban fallout. Town hall meetings sponsored by Harvard in response to the ban have attracted 900 people, she said.

She said she worries about the explicit bans and threats aimed at undocumented students and immigrants, as well as the general environment in the United States for non-citizens. About 20 percent of Harvard students come from foreign countries.

Citing just one example of important international exchanges, she noted long-standing ties between American academic medical centers and Iran, which has been sending medical students to the United States since the days of the shah of Iran.

"If people from India feel they may be shot if they come to the United States, it is very

troubling,” said Faust. Last week, an Indian tech worker was shot to death in a Kansas bar.

Faust said she has resisted calls to declare Harvard a “sanctuary campus” in response to Trump’s plan for more aggressive deportations, however, because she believes it would give students a “false sense of security.”

The college will require that law enforcement officials get a warrant before entering the campus, and it is offering advice and support. Up to 150 people on campus are undocumented, she estimated.

Source: <http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/politics/2017/02/27/harvard-president-lobbies-washington-protect-foreign-academics-and-research-dollars/Vyvt76GsS6Rt2apeYSNcQI/story.html>

More Master Plan Slippage

Tuesday, February 28, 2017



Fresno State President Joseph Castro says he wants to see any new effort to build a public medical school in the San Joaquin Valley be a collaboration between the UC and CSU systems. Last month, Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula introduced a bill in Sacramento that would authorize a new medical school at Fresno State. But the state's master plan for higher education calls for medical schools to be the domain only of the University of California. Speaking with Valley Public Radio, Castro says he agrees with Arambula that the valley deserves a public medical school to help address the shortage of physicians here, but... *Castro: "I've expressed to him that my preference as president of Fresno State is that we would do that in collaboration with the University of California."* **For years, discussion about a medical school in the valley has centered around UC Merced, but Arambula's bill doesn't mention that campus.** He told Valley Public Radio last month that's due to Merced's focus on increasing enrollment and campus expansion by 2010... Full story at <http://kvpr.org/post/fresno-states-castro-says-talk-new-valley-medical-school-should-include-uc>

Gone

Wednesday, March 01, 2017



The University of California, San Francisco on Tuesday laid off 49 information technology (IT) employees and outsourced their work to a company based in India, ending a year-long process that has brought the public university under fire.

The university announced the plan last July as a way to save \$30 million over five years. The University of California system, which includes health care and research-focused UCSF, has been struggling to raise revenue and cut expenses.

*Globalization and outsourcing have become hot-button political issues in the United States, as more employers cut costs by farming out work to low-cost workers in far-flung parts of the world. President **Donald Trump** campaigned on promises to restore lost U.S. jobs and to penalize companies that move factories overseas.*

This was the University of California's first outsourcing, said a spokeswoman who added that the layoffs were necessary due to rising costs of technology. In addition to the 49 staff layoffs, another 48 positions that were vacant or filled by contractors were eliminated.

*California Senator **Dianne Feinstein** last year said the university had a responsibility to keep jobs in the United States and pledged to seek reforms to stop domestic jobs being outsourced...*

Full story at <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-outsourcing-university-of-california/USKBN1682ZI>

Trump and Feinstein. UC is apparently determined to be bipartisan in ignoring political winds.

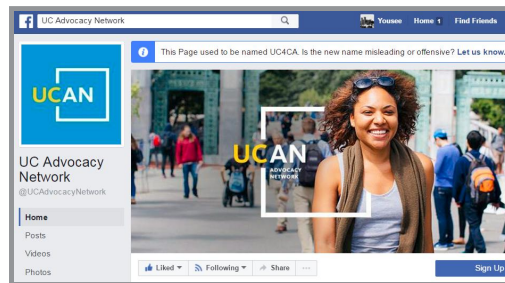
Good Politics?

Wednesday, March 01, 2017

BEFORE:



AFTER:



Was it good politics to change the Facebook page UC4CA (which conveys UC is for California) to UCAN? Just asking.

The change seems to have occurred today. So we are not for California as of March 1?

Seat at the table

Wednesday, March 01, 2017



Newly selected UC Davis Chancellor Gary May has received \$325,780 a year sitting on outside boards, a form of compensation that prompted criticism last year for predecessor Linda P.B. Katehi. May earned \$288,280 in cash and stock in 2015 as a member of the board of Leidos, a Virginia-based defense and technology company, according to the most recent public filing showing his compensation. May also earns \$37,500 per year on the board of nonprofit Charles Stark Draper Laboratory, according to UC officials. Draper facilitates research in defense, technology and medicine. May, 52, said last week that he intends to keep his paid board seats once he becomes University of California, Davis, chancellor Aug. 1, but does not intend to accept any more such positions – complying with a UC senior manager limit that regents imposed last summer... Full story at <http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/education/article135583378.html> When he walks right in, he'll have a place to sit:

Hacked

Thursday, March 02, 2017



From yesterday's Bruin: *A Russian-speaking hacker sold unauthorized access to databases for more than 60 universities and government agencies in the United States and United Kingdom, including UCLA. The hacker, called Rasputin, sold SQL injections which allow a hacker to access all the contents of an internet database, rather than only parts of it, for various databases according to a statement by Recorded Future, a technology company that specializes in real-time threat intelligence. Recorded Future informed the UCLA Information Security Office that a UCLA website was vulnerable to SQLi attacks from Rasputin, according to the office...* Full story at <http://dailybruin.com/2017/02/28/hacker-sells-access-to-databases-at-ucla-other-universities/> **Where's your data?**

Wait and see?

Thursday, March 02, 2017



Or maybe not *In the age of Trump, administrators need patience and calm, says **Janet Napolitano**, president of the University of California system.*

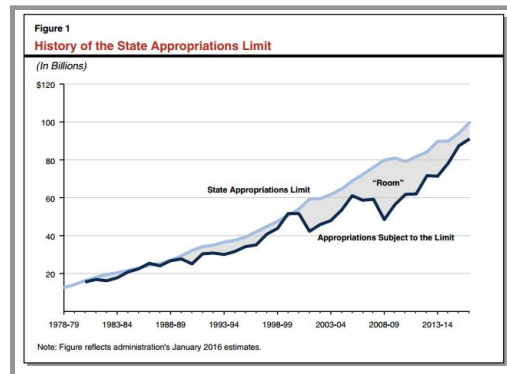
Uncertainty on campuses is rampant, as faculty, staff and students don't know what Donald J. Trump's presidency means for higher education. While Mr. Trump's rhetoric has caused major anxiety at universities, Ms. Napolitano said during a visit to The Chronicle on Wednesday, it's still unclear whether "the bark is worse than the bite."...

Full story at <http://www.chronicle.com/article/U-of-California-Leader/239369>



Gann

Thursday, March 02, 2017



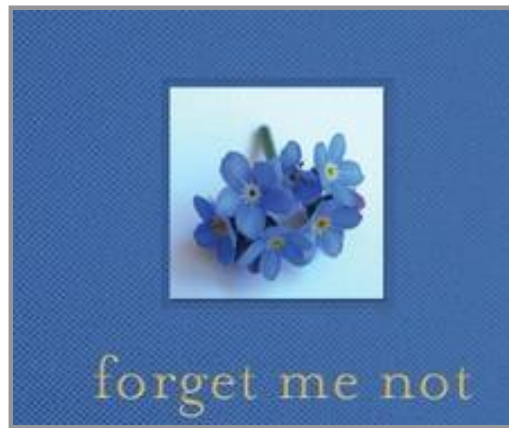
Prop 13 of 1978 was a major change to state and local fiscal policy in California. The following year, voters - still in an anti-tax mood - enacted Prop 4 which established the Gann revenue limit which calculates a cap on spending. Revenues above the Gann limit were to be refunded. In the second half of the 1980s, state state hit the Gann limit and there were refunds. This episode then triggered Prop 98 of 1988 dealing with K-14 funding and Prop 111 of 1990. In effect, some appropriations were excluded from Gann, allowing additional spending and diverting more funding toward K-14. The revised Gann limit was hit at the peak of the dot-com boom but since then it hasn't been a factor in state fiscal policy.

Gov. Brown has proposed a recalculation of Gann because the state is now close to hitting the limit again. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) warns, however, that his approach is legally questionable. Thus, Gann may again become a constraint. As such, hopes that in particular UC might be in line for more state funding may be unrealistic.

The LAO's analysis of Gann can be found at:
<http://lao.ca.gov/reports/2017/3596/gann-limit-030217.pdf>

Unprivate

Friday, March 03, 2017



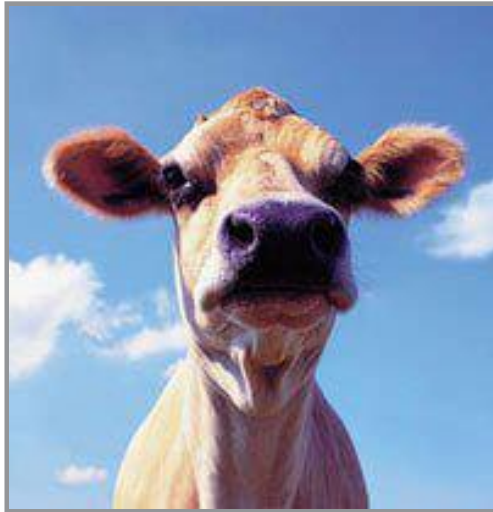
From time to time, we have pointed out that emails - particularly at a public university - should not be viewed as private. Apart from the fact that they wander around and may be seen by folks you didn't intend, public universities - as government entities - are subject to public documents requests.

Even if you use outside email services such as gmail, the California Supreme Court has now clarified that such messages are public documents when they contain "government business."

...The California Supreme Court says the public has the right to access emails and text messages about government business sent on California officials' private accounts. The ruling by a unanimous court on Thursday clears up a murky area of law in the Golden State. The use of private email accounts by public officials has faced scrutiny in recent years, with some using it as a way to avoid disclosure... Full story at: <http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/article135984358.html>
Indeed, you can be compelled to turn over private devices and their passwords - smartphones, laptops, etc. - containing messages that are "public business." See: <http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article136123468.html>

More MOOC problems

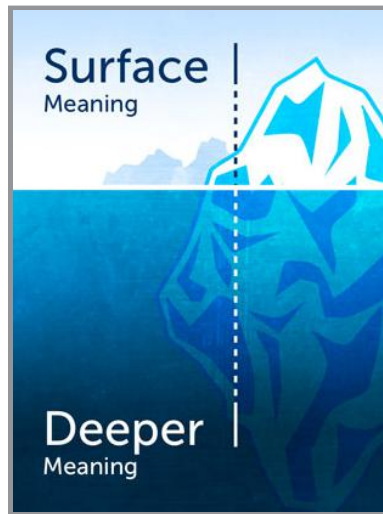
Friday, March 03, 2017



UC Berkeley announced Wednesday that it would restrict public access to existing educational content after a Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation concluded that many of the video captions did not meet standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Campus will instead invest in developing new online content with necessary accessibility features, according to campus spokesperson Roqua Montez. Montez said that because of limited viewership of more than 20,000 course capture videos and a projected cost of at least \$1 million for captioning, campus decided not to revamp the videos deemed inaccessible. "On average, the older videos were watched for less than 8 minutes," Montez said. "(It) doesn't make sense to go back and do that, given the budget climate we are in. We had to weigh that as a factor." After viewers unaffiliated with UC Berkeley made a complaint in 2014, the DOJ released a report in August detailing accessibility issues with campus's educational content. A majority of the YouTube videos were captioned using YouTube's speech recognition technology rather than being manually captioned. As a result, video content was incorrectly communicated to viewers... Full story at <http://www.dailycal.org/2017/03/02/campus-announces-restriction-public-access-educational-content/>

Deeper Significance

Friday, March 03, 2017



Note: The deeper significance of the item below is that a court has found that UC retiree health involves a UC commitment, not an entirely voluntary thing that UC does.

UC Ordered to Provide LLNL Retiree List

March 2, 2017 12:00 am *The Independent*

Superior Court Judge George Hernandez last week gave the University of California 30 days to provide a full list of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory retirees and their survivors who might benefit from the class action lawsuit aimed at returning them to University health benefits.

Hernandez's order came after months of back- and -forth debate over whether UC incorrectly left names off the list when the class action was certified on Oct. 30, 2014. The retirees formed a grass-roots organization, raised funds and sued in 2010 after they lost UC health care following a late- 2007 contract change. As a result of that change, a private organization, Lawrence Livermore National Security, or LLNS, took over management of the big laboratory.

In a key ruling in 2015, Judge Hernandez found that UC had clearly intended to make health care commitments to its retirees and had actually done so.

The task of establishing the lawsuit class has proved challenging; that is, specifying who might be entitled to benefit from the lawsuit, should the retirees prevail. The job has been made more difficult by University privacy rules, by a lack of clarity over the exact date when retirees lost their right to UC health care and by the existence of records at both UC and the new contractor, LLNS.

UC attorneys maintained that the list the University provided in October 2014 was sufficient. Retiree attorneys argued that it was not and that the delay in compiling a complete list is having damaging consequences, with more than 200 potential

beneficiaries dying since the class was established.

Last week's ruling by Judge Hernandez supports the retiree position. Assuming a complete list is provided as ordered, the retirees group will then be able to notify those who are living and the heirs and estates of those who have died that they are potential members of a class that could benefit from the lawsuit.

Source: http://www.independentnews.com/news/uc-ordered-to-provide-llnl-retiree-list/article_52227ba0-fec9-11e6-a53c-c72593141cc2.html

Advice and Common Sense

Saturday, March 04, 2017



It appears that faced with a budgetary problem, UC-Berkeley paid over \$300,000 for a consultant to advise that the chancellor should let folks know that he was trying to fix it. (Yours truly would have happily suggested that approach for half the price.)

From the Sacramento Bee:

*Faced with a \$150 million budget deficit at UC Berkeley, university administrators were grappling last year with how to break the news to faculty and the media about the need for major spending and staffing cuts. The solution? University officials bypassed Berkeley's own communications staff and approved spending \$419,400 to hire an outside public relations agency "to address media and stakeholder backlash," newly released documents indicate. The contract with Sard Verbinnen & Co., which bills itself as a global public relations firm, was aimed at helping the university communicate with alumni, faculty, donors, legislators and others about how it was going to address the deficit. "Campus leadership was considering how best to deal with the considerable communications challenges it was facing and believed that outside expertise would likely be needed," Dianne Klein, a spokeswoman for UC President Janet Napolitano, said Thursday. "The president said that if the campus felt that hiring an outside firm was the best course, that one should be hired. Moreover, the firm was paid with unrestricted donor funds, not state or tuition dollars." At the time Sard Verbinnen was advising the Berkeley campus, UC officials were dealing with a separate scandal at UC Davis over the use of at least three outside public relations firms to enhance the reputation of that school and then-Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi, who ultimately resigned under pressure. Amid the controversy over the UC Davis contracts, which were made public by The Sacramento Bee, UC Berkeley abruptly canceled its contract with Sard Verbinnen. Before the contract was scrapped, however, UC Berkeley paid the firm a total of \$306,447.05 for work through June 2016. The firm's duties had quickly expanded beyond dealing only with the deficit, documents show, and included offering advice on how to strengthen the image of Chancellor Nicholas Dirks as he addressed the shortfall. **"Dirks must not shy away from public view at this point in time,"** an April 23 email from the firm to Berkeley communications executives advised. **"He must demonstrably take control of the situation both publicly and behind the scenes."** Failure to aggressively address the deficit publicly, the firm wrote, would damage support for the university "and Dirks' own reputation." ... Full*

story at <http://www.sacbee.com/news/investigations/the-public-eye/article136343853.html>

UCLA wisdom if the news of the day has got you feeling blue

Sunday, March 05, 2017



View from Santa Monica *Campus Queries* is a new Q&A series in which *Daily Bruin* readers send in science-related questions for UCLA professors and experts to answer. This week, Daniele Bianchi, assistant professor of atmospheric and oceanic sciences, answers. Q. Why is the sea sometimes blue or green when the water has actually no color? – Doris C. **Prof. Bianchi** A. If the ocean was pure water, it would still look blue, and that's because the white light from the sun is made from all the different wavelengths. The water tends to absorb some of these (wavelengths), but not the blue. The ocean itself, and pure water, is bluish. It tends to let blue light pass through it more or scatter it more. (In) a glass of water, there's not enough of water to scatter the light; you just need a lot of water to see the effect. Light is this collection of different wavelengths, and when a photon interacts with a particle, different things can happen. Scattering is an optical interaction of light with the particle (and) is really (the) interaction of the radiation with small particles. With very small molecules, like molecules of water or air, blue light is preferentially scattered. (Scattering) depends on the size of radiation (waves). There are other things in the water that absorb light, like phytoplankton. These are aquatic, unicellular plants that are (found) in exceptionally large numbers in the water. They have chlorophyll and other pigments, and the chlorophyll absorbs the blue and the red (wavelengths) very well, but less (of) the green. If there is a lot of phytoplankton, the water might look green. Phytoplankton are always trying to get the light, but water absorbs the light too, so there's this interplay. Some plankton can cause red tides, (like) specific phytoplankton that have pigments that scatter red light and absorb green and other wavelengths. It's all a matter of (which) wavelengths are absorbed by the water and (which) wavelengths are absorbed by the plankton. When there is a lot of runoff from water, like these days, there's also sediments in the water. They absorb all sorts of frequencies and the water looks brown. So it really depends on what is in the water. Also, when you are sitting on the beach and looking at the water, there's also reflection from the sky, which is why (the water) appears blue. Source: <http://dailybruin.com/2017/03/02/campus-queries-why-is-the-ocean-blue-if-water-itself-has-no-color/> **It definitely looks blue:**

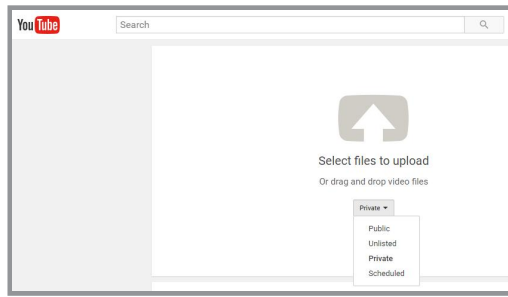
Wait a minute

Monday, March 06, 2017



There is something odd about what is said in the article below. The owner of a YouTube channel can almost instantly make any video "private," which means only the owner can view it. (Yours truly cannot speak to the other platforms.) You can see the YouTube option for private on the image below. The owner could then make the video available to someone requesting it. It's not all that complicated.

The University of California, Berkeley, will cut off public access to tens of thousands of video lectures and podcasts in response to a U.S. Justice Department order that it make the educational content accessible to people with disabilities. Today, the content is available to the public on YouTube, iTunes U and the university's webcast.berkeley site. On March 15, the university will begin removing the more than 20,000 audio and video files from those platforms -- a process that will take three to five months -- and require users sign in with University of California credentials to view or listen to them. The university will continue to offer massive open online courses on edX and said it plans to create new public content that is accessible to listeners or viewers with disabilities. Cathy Koshland, vice chancellor for undergraduate education, made the announcement in a March 1 statement. "This move will also partially address recent findings by the Department of Justice, which suggests that the YouTube and iTunes U content meet higher accessibility standards as a condition of remaining publicly available," Koshland said. "Finally, moving our content behind authentication allows us to better protect instructor intellectual property from 'pirates' who have reused content for personal profit without consent." The Justice Department, following an investigation, in August determined that the university was violating the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. The department reached that conclusion after receiving complaints from two employees of Gallaudet University, saying Berkeley's free online educational content was inaccessible to blind and deaf people because of a lack of captions, screen reader compatibility and other issues... Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/03/06/u-california-berkeley-delete-publicly-available-educational-content>



Upcoming Regents Meeting

Tuesday, March 07, 2017



The Regents will have a three-day meeting next week (March 15-17). Usually, the meetings end with a full board session that endorses recommendations from the various committees that have met earlier. In this case, however, the Regents, in their final session, will likely endorse a systemwide 20% cap on out-of-state enrollment.* The LA Times summarizes:

*...Under the proposal... the system's three most popular campuses would be allowed to keep but not increase their proportions of nonresident undergraduates — 24.4% at UC Berkeley, 22.9% at UC San Diego and 22.8% at UCLA... The proportion of nonresident students at the other campuses ranges from 18.9% at UC Irvine to less than 1% at UC Merced. Those campuses each would be allowed to grow up to 20% so long as the systemwide limit was not exceeded... ***

Blog readers will note that if the campuses currently under 20% went up to that level, and the campuses grandfathered in above the cap stayed above, the systemwide proportion would be greater than 20%. However, it is unlikely that the below-20% campuses would each rise to the point that the overall cap would be exceeded anytime soon.

Other business includes a report that the pension and endowments portfolios earned 6-ish percent returns over the year ending December, discussion of undergrad, grad, and professional tuition, possible new student housing at UCLA, wine sales (instead of disposal) at UC-Davis, and conflict-of-interest rules for Regents. The Dept. of Energy labs will be reviewed, including Los Alamos, UC's legacy from the Manhattan Project. UC participates in a partnership to manage Los Alamos under a contract with the Dept. of Energy that ends in Sept. 2018. Given the world and national situation, including some loose remarks about nuclear weapons during the 2016 presidential campaign, one could imagine that the renewal of the contract might spark debate.

The full Regents' agenda is at:

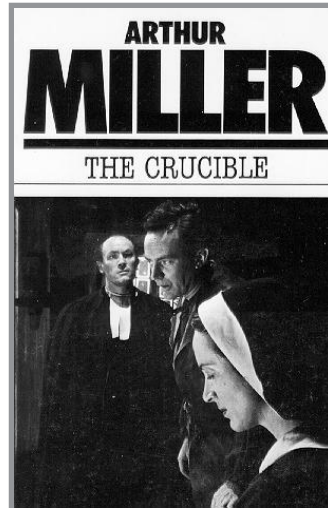
<http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/agendas/mar2017.html>

* <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/mar17/b4.pdf>

** <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-uc-limit-nonresident-students-20170306-story.html>

The Crucible of Public Opinion Can Be Like "The Crucible"

Tuesday, March 07, 2017



Time to remember the past? The op ed below, whatever the facts of the particular case referenced turn out to be, is a reminder of an old lesson.

My Word: Berkeley professor accused of misconduct being railroaded

March 6, 2017, East Bay Times

Misconduct by faculty members and administrators at the University of California has become a frequent news item in the East Bay Times recently. We are united with victims of such misconduct. It is a serious obligation of the university to thoroughly investigate allegations of inappropriate behavior.

We are 36 women and men who've studied and worked closely with UC Berkeley Professor Nezar AlSayyad, a valued, respected colleague and mentor who has been unjustly tried and convicted in the court of public opinion for alleged acts of misconduct.

We know AlSayyad well. We trust him. In the decades we have known him, he has shown us respect, collegiality and goodwill. He has been a mentor who cares deeply for students' wellbeing, an exceptional teacher and adviser, and tremendously supportive of his students' scholarly and professional development.

For many of us, he was one of the main reasons we chose UC Berkeley. Beyond his impressive range and depth of intellectual contributions and his unstinting service to the academy and the public sphere, it is his unfailing generosity of spirit that impressed and moved us the most. He was recognized with the Distinguished Teaching Award, the highest honor UC Berkeley grants its faculty.

A few months ago, a claim of misconduct raced through local news media. This and the leaking of a confidential report, written by an outside consultant who is possibly unfamiliar with university culture, triggered an unfair campaign by students against sexual

harassment on campus. News coverage later reinforced the false impression that this preliminary Title IX report rendered a specific final verdict on the allegations. This episode has scorched Professor AlSayyad's personal and academic reputation.

The rush to judgment, before charges have been heard, responded to or resolved through established university and legal procedures, is ominous and chilling. It is the vague nature of this investigative process that is most egregious.

In our judicial system, one is innocent until proven guilty. However, the current process appears rudderless and vulnerable to personal grievance and zealotry than concern for the facts. Although he has not been formally charged of violating the Faculty Code of Conduct, the university abruptly interfered with his teaching schedule, leaving many of his graduate students bewildered and uncertain. His rights as a tenured faculty member and as a member of the UC Berkeley community have been disrespected. Some of us raised these concerns in a Nov. 18 letter to Chancellor Nicholas Dirks. It remains unanswered.

We are disturbed that AlSayyad has become a target for built-up frustration about the handling of inappropriate behavior on campus and the university's unsatisfactory record on the issue. This frustration, while understandable, has manifested itself through insinuation and intimidation.

AlSayyad has even been subject to slanderous remarks about his Middle Eastern background. Current students and graduates have been targets of aggressive solicitations in an attempt to smear him.

Having indicated support for AlSayyad, some members of this group of signatories have been subjected to personal and online harassment, accused of insensitivity to misconduct.

UC Berkeley has done little to dampen this dysfunction. It must demonstrate that it is capable of treating seriously complaints of possible misconduct and protecting the rights of all involved, including faculty members. A fair and impartial investigation, informed by a diverse set of interviewees and thorough documentation, is the only way to determine what AlSayyad did or did not do. This is the least we would expect from UC Berkeley.

Montira Unakul works for UNESCO in Bangkok. Heba Ahmed is associate professor of architecture at Cairo University. They are former students of AlSayyad. Thirty-four other former students also signed this op-ed.

UCLA History: Construction of Kerckhoff

Wednesday, March 08, 2017



Construction of Kerckhoff in 1930

Food for Thought

Thursday, March 09, 2017



Vorboten (sort of) Recently, an email circulated in at least one campus school regarding a local restaurant. It included the curious statement below which attracted the interest of yours truly:

Based on some recent requests, we have again looked at using Napa Valley Grill. A new review of their contract and terms was completed and unfortunately we are unable to book events with them. As a reminder: Per Campus Purchasing, "Napa Valley Grill contract language violates the Regents Standing Orders and their legal team has not been able to come to an agreement with UCLA."

So the interesting question raised (apart from what happened to the "e" in Grill e in the email) is what standing order of the Regents is potentially violated?

After diligent research, it appears that the provision violated is contained in Standing Order 100.4(dd)(9). Now you may not be fully acquainted with that section. But it involves contracts undertaken by the university and essentially bans " *agreements by which the University assumes liability for conduct of persons other than University officers, agents, employees, students, invitees, and guests. In circumstances where it is deemed necessary by the President, in consultation with the General Counsel, to indemnify non-University persons who have agreed at the University's request to serve as advisors on operational matters for conduct within the scope of their role as advisors, the President is authorized to provide for defense and indemnification. This restriction does not apply to agreements under which the University assumes responsibility for the condition of property in its custody.*"

So apparently - for reasons unknown - the restaurant's standard contract requires the university to indemnify it for damage done by persons unrelated to the university. Note that the ban does not prevent reimbursements for meals on university business that do not involve a contract.

Possibly redundant demands for UCLA to be made into sanctuary campus

Friday, March 10, 2017



Students and staff at UCLA held a town hall meeting Thursday in an effort to make the campus and its medical centers a sanctuary.

The groups said they are scared they could be affected by President Donald Trump's policies. While the school has shown the campus support, students and staff said it is not enough. A list containing specific demands on how to make the campus a sanctuary campus was drawn up and presented at the meeting.

"We're asking for the university to not collaborate or cooperate with ICE and to also protect the privacy of undocumented students as a whole. We're also asking for concrete policies to protect other communities that have been targeted," student Dana Carrera said.

One of the demands involved the university not complying with federal raids, detentions and deportations unless mandated by a court order. The meeting started around 5 p.m. and was held in a classroom at Haines Hall. The groups plan to take their platform to university administrators next week.

Source: <http://abc7.com/news/students-staff-demand-ucla-be-made-into-sanctuary-campus/1793587/>

Note: The demands, at least as described above, seem to be existing UC policy. Our previous posts related to this issue can be found by typing "sanctuary" into the blog search option. The UC prez, however, has avoided using the term "sanctuary," presumably to avoid making UC a particular target.

Someone's high level of trust

Friday, March 10, 2017



Maybe there was too much trust by someone at a table near the Luskin School yesterday. Not clear that putting a shoe and a cup on top of a laptop and leaving it unattended would prevent it from disappearing.

Nice grant; short memory

Saturday, March 11, 2017



Not always availableCritical Refugee Studies Collective Receives \$1.6 Million Grant:
Grant to help develop Critical Refugee Studies program at University of California

Mojgan Sherkat, March 10, 2017, [UCR Today](#)

The Critical Refugee Studies Collective, and Lan Duong, professor in the media and cultural studies program at the University of California, Riverside, have been awarded a \$1.6 million dollar grant by the University of California, Office of the President. The grant will allow the group to collaborate across five UC campuses to develop curricula, symposia and a website, devoted to Critical Refugee Studies.

"This generous grant will allow us to develop programming across the UCs as well as award grants to scholars, artists, and activists working on projects dealing with refugees," Duong said.

Duong is the co-principal investigator of the grant and will be co-editing an anthology on Critical Refugee Studies. The Critical Refugee Studies Collective (CRSC) is led by UC San Diego Ethnic Studies professor Yen Le Espiritu. The goal of the project is to bring cultural studies and humanities scholars together to better understand one of the defining issues of the 21st century: the refugee experience in both past and present as war and climate change continue to displace millions of people around the world.

*Espiritu, who is credited with developing the nascent field of critical refugee studies, will work with faculty from Berkeley, Merced, UCLA and Riverside to document how the lives of distinct waves of refugees have been shaped by human conflict and climate change. **The UC Office of the President notes that California has settled 700,000 refugees since the mid-'70s, and this research is aimed at informing the policies and practices that shape the refugee experience in California and beyond.***

"I am extremely happy to be a part of this effort and I hope that it will place the University of California at the forefront of the critical study of refugees in California and beyond," Duong said.

Source: <https://ucrtoday.ucr.edu/45294>

The current governo\ was not so welcoming to Vietnam refugees in "the mid-'70s." From the LA Times of May 4, 1975::

Recent statements concerning Vietnamese immigrants by Brown Administration officials display a distressing lack of awareness of California history. In the 19th century, anti-Chinese hysteria led to racially motivated legal restrictions and lynch-mob action. The 20th century saw the internment of Japanese citizens and residents during World War II.

Earl Warren, then California attorney general, was a leader in the internment campaign, an action he lived to regret. State officials are rightly concerned with the economic and social impact of large numbers of refugees. But they might also reflect on Warren's sad example before making statements which create unnecessary public anxiety.

DANIEL J. B. MITCHELL
Los Angeles

Sometimes, you don't quite make it

Saturday, March 11, 2017



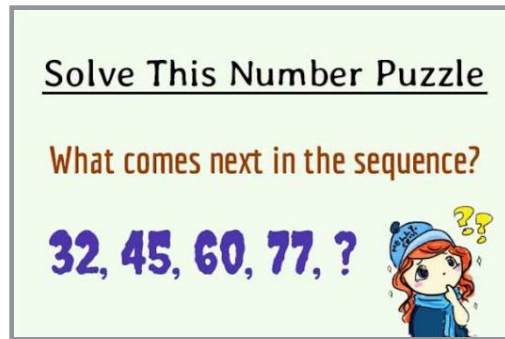
The state controller's cash statement released yesterday indicates that revenues through February in the current fiscal year fell short of projections, both those made when the budget was passed last June or the more recent one made at the time of the governor's January budget proposal for next year.

Of course, the big revenue month is April and the missing revenue relative to the overall budget is not huge. It is a bit worrisome that it is concentrated in the sales tax which is a general indicator of consumption activity. But let's wait until April. Note, however, that requests by UC for more state funding are not helped by such numbers.

The controller's report is at <http://sco.ca.gov/Files-ARD/CASH/February%202017%20Statement%20of%20General%20Fund%20Cash%20Receipts%20and%20Disbursements.pdf>

Do we need to guess what's likely to come next?

Saturday, March 11, 2017



***People's Park** near UC Berkeley, where questions over its fate have inspired student protests for decades and led deputies to kill a man and blind another on infamous "Bloody Thursday" in 1969, is again being considered for development.*

This time, UC Berkeley is eyeing the grassy 2.8-acre park as one of nine sites for development to alleviate one of the worst shortages of student housing in campus history.

"It is such an urgent issue," said Carol Christ,

UC Berkeley's interim executive vice chancellor and provost, who chaired the committee that produced a draft report of student-housing recommendations she will present to the UC regents on Wednesday. "We have increasing reports of student homelessness, and students trying to live in academic buildings."...

Full story at <http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/UC-Berkeley-ponders-People-s-Park-for-housing-10993869.php>

Forward!

Sunday, March 12, 2017



Rolling Out

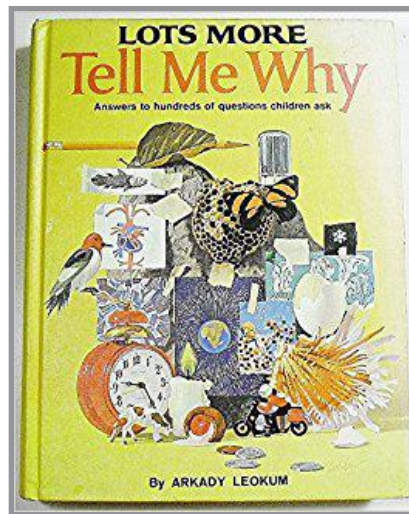
Monday, March 13, 2017



*Seizing on growing concerns over college affordability, California lawmakers are poised to propose what would be the most generous college aid plan in the nation, covering not just tuition but also living expenses, which have led to spiraling student debt. The plan, to be formally **rolled out** by Assembly Democrats at a news conference Monday morning, would supplement California's existing aid programs, with the goal of eradicating the need for student loans for nearly 400,000 students in the Cal State and University of California systems...It also would boost grants to community college students and give those attending them full time a tuition-free first year. "Lower-income students ... are able to many times, through our great programs in California, get help to pay for tuition. But they're still graduating with a tremendous amount of debt," Assemblyman Kevin McCarty, D- Sacramento, who is spearheading the plan, said... "The cost of living, the books, the transportation — that's (what) we really need to tackle." Full story at <http://mynews1a.com/education/2017/03/13/desperate-college-student-drowning-in-debt-state-may-rescue-you/>*

Lots More

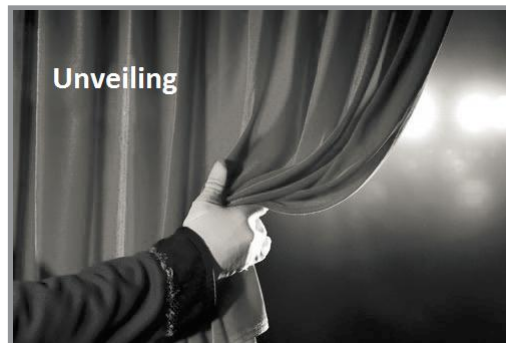
Monday, March 13, 2017



From the Bruin: *UCLA has a proposal to build three new residence halls and two apartment complexes by 2021 to accommodate increased enrollment. The initiative would add about 6,900 beds to the Hill and guarantee students more years of housing. UCLA officials expect to request preliminary plan funding at the May Regents meeting, which would allow UCLA to develop a budget and schematic designs for the projects. Three new residence halls would be built on the Hill: one located near Tom Bradley International Hall and Strathmore Drive, one located on a parking lot between Saxon and Hitch Residential Suites, and one located near the upper edge of Drake Stadium. The hall near Bradley Hall would have 800 beds in triple rooms, community bathrooms and a to-go dining facility. The site on the parking lot would add 1,500 beds in triple rooms and community bathrooms. The residence hall near Drake Stadium would hold 1,100 beds in triple rooms with community bathrooms and athletic facilities. With the additional buildings, first-year students would be guaranteed four years of housing and transfer students would be guaranteed two years of housing, an increase from three years and one year, respectively. Two of the five proposed housing projects would be new apartment buildings for third and fourth-year students. One proposed apartment site would add 1,300 beds in two-bedroom/two-bath apartment complexes on the UCLA Extension Office building site at the intersection of Le Conte, Gayley and Levering avenues. The other would demolish Warren Hall, a laboratory and office building built in 1961, and replace it with about 2,200 beds in two-bedroom/two-bath apartment units. The demolition would displace Warren Hall's current occupants to other facilities on campus...* Full story at <http://dailybruin.com/2017/03/12/ucla-to-propose-new-dorms-apartments-to-match-enrollment-increase/> **More!**

Unveiling

Tuesday, March 14, 2017



Note: The proposal below seems to be timed to precede the Regents meetings that start today. From the LA Times: **California Democrats unveil a sweeping financial aid plan to help students avoid debt** Seizing on growing concerns over college affordability, California lawmakers proposed what would be the most generous college aid plan in the nation Monday, covering not just tuition but also living expenses that have led to spiraling student debt. The plan would supplement California's existing aid programs with the aim of eradicating the need for student loans for nearly 400,000 students in the Cal State and University of California systems. It also would boost grants to community college students and give those attending them full time a tuition-free first year. "Lower-income students ... are able to many times, through our great programs in California, get help to pay for tuition. But they're still graduating with a tremendous amount of debt," said Assemblyman Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento), who is spearheading the plan. "The cost of living, the books, the transportation — that's [what] we really need to tackle." At a Capitol news conference Monday morning, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Paramount) said that with the introduction of the proposal, "California is taking the boldest step in the nation for making college debt-free." The plan's high price tag means success is hardly guaranteed. But it comes at a time when college costs are facing increased scrutiny. Nearly 60% of Californians in a recent survey said affordability was a big problem for the state's higher education system. Bernie Sanders' presidential bid last year catapulted his call for tuition-free college into the national spotlight. Under the new plan, students still would have access to existing financial aid, including federal Pell Grants, state programs such as Cal Grants, university grants and Middle Class Scholarships (if they are not eliminated as Gov. Jerry Brown has proposed). Parents making more than \$60,000 would be expected to make a contribution, and students also would be expected to chip in by holding part-time jobs year-round. The new scholarship would cover the rest of the average annual cost of college, which is around \$21,000 at Cal State and \$33,000 at UC... H.D. Palmer, spokesman for the state Department of Finance, noted Brown's administration has worked to clamp down on college costs by keeping tuition and fees flat for the last five years "while continuing to work with both systems to make improvements such as time to graduation that have a direct effect on cost to students as well as their parents." The Assembly proposal "is certainly a noble goal, but one that clearly has to be paid for," Palmer said... Full story at <http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-sac-debt-free-college-20170313-story.html>

New UC-B Chancellor

Tuesday, March 14, 2017



Carol Christ, UC Berkeley's top academic officer — widely regarded on campus as an effective and collaborative administrator — was tapped Monday to become the 11th chancellor and first female leader of the prestigious 149-year-old campus.

If approved by the UC Board of Regents on Thursday, Christ (rhymes with wrist) would take over July 1, when Chancellor Nicholas Dirks will step down.

University of California President Janet Napolitano announced her choice of Christ, 72, who has served as UC Berkeley's interim executive vice chancellor and provost since May, a position she had held for six years until 2000.

A scholar of Victorian literature, Christ left the campus and was president of Smith College from 2002 to 2013. She returned to UC Berkeley in 2015 as head of its Center for Studies in Higher Education...

Full story at <http://www.sfchronicle.com/education/article/Carol-Christ-is-named-UC-Berkeley-s-new-10998372.php>

Regents Agenda Summary & Yesterday's Audio

Wednesday, March 15, 2017



UC Regents Survey Area Designated for UC-Irvine: 1961 The [LA Times](#) provides a summary of the next two days of Regents meetings. See below. In addition, yours truly has preserved the audio of yesterday's meeting of the Regents Investments Committee, since the Regents only "archive" recordings of their meetings for one year. See also the link below for the audio.

The hot-button issues on the UC regents' agenda: Rising costs, nonresident enrollment and campus housing shortages

Teresa Watanabe, LA Times, 3-15-17

University of California regents will tackle a host of hot-button issues at their two-day meeting in San Francisco beginning Wednesday, including proposed enrollment limits on students from other states and countries, the rising cost of attendance and the campus housing squeeze.

Regents also will vote to approve the appointment of Carol T. Christ, UC Berkeley's top academic officer who would be the 11th chancellor and first woman to lead the 149-year-old campus.

Board members also will discuss a proposed policy to impose sanctions against regents found to have violated university rules on ethics and sexual misconduct, even outside their university roles. The proposal was triggered by disclosures that Regent Norman Pattiz had made sexually inappropriate remarks to employees and independent contractors at his Podcast One studio in Beverly Hills. He apologized and underwent sexual harassment prevention training.

A lively debate is expected over UC's proposal to cap undergraduate enrollment at 20% of the student population systemwide. Nonresident students numbered 34,673 at the system's nine undergraduate campuses in fall 2016, or 16.5% of the system's 210,170 undergraduates. That proportion has quadrupled since 2007, as campuses scrambled to make up major state budget cuts with the extra tuition dollars that students from other states and countries pay.

UC also has increased the number of California students by 10% over that time. But the

growing reliance on nonresident enrollment has sparked a backlash from California families and legislators. Lawmakers are requiring that UC adopt a policy limiting out-of-state students in order to receive \$18.5 million in additional state funding.

The proposed policy, aimed at balancing the needs of California students with the benefits of diversity and the additional money that nonresidents bring in, has drawn mixed responses. The UC Academic Senate opposes what it calls “arbitrary quotas,” while some lawmakers wanted UC to cap nonresidents at their current proportion of 16.5% rather than allow for growth...

In other business, regents will discuss a new survey that found that the cost of attending UC rose an average of 4% this year compared with last year. Housing and food costs increased, while expenses for transportation and books declined...

Full story at <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-uc-regents-advance-20170315-story.html>

Link to audio of Regents Investment Committee meeting of March 14, 2017:

Listen to morning session of Regents: March 15, 2017

Thursday, March 16, 2017



The LA Times summarizes some of what transpired yesterday:

Amid rising public concern about college expenses, University of California regents were told Wednesday that the cost of attending UC campuses increased by about \$1,100, or 4% last year.

The public university system's new cost survey found that food, housing and healthcare costs rose, but transportation and book expenses dropped. The survey, conducted last spring at every campus, will be used to set budgets for 2017-18. UC Berkeley recorded the biggest average cost increase, rising 7% to \$34,217 annually. UC Santa Cruz — at \$34,627 — was the most expensive campus. UC Riverside — at \$30,802 — was the cheapest.

Regent Eloy Ortiz Oakley called on regents to look for ways to lower the cost of attendance during a committee session on the first day of a two-day meeting in San Francisco. Regent John A. Pérez said the university's requirement that all students, regardless of income level, contribute about \$10,000 annually to cover their costs might discourage some students from applying to UC... Full story at <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-uc-regents-meeting-20170315-story.html> You can hear the three morning segments at: and <https://archive.org/details/RegentsFinCapitalStrategies31517/Regents+AcademicStudentAffairsLabs3-15-17am.wma>

PS: Some nasty questions about cost and usable square feet were asked about a proposed UC-SF project. It reminds one of what happened when the UCLA Grand Hotel was first submitted. But, of course, there was a promise to come back with answers and, like the Grand Hotel, approval can be expected despite doubts.

Opposites Attract (on Middlebury Issue)

Thursday, March 16, 2017



From Inside Higher Ed:

Stylistically and politically, Robert P. George and Cornel West don't have much in common. George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence and director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University, is one of the country's most prominent conservative intellectuals. West, a professor of the practice of public philosophy and African and African-American studies at Harvard University, is a self-described "radical Democrat" who, in addition to many books, once released a spoken-word album. So when George and West agree on something and lend their names to it, people take notice -- as they did this week, when the pair published a statement in support of "truth seeking, democracy and freedom of thought and expression." It's a politely worded denunciation of what George and West call "campus illiberalism," or the brand of thinking that led to this month's incident at Middlebury College, where students prevented an invited speaker from talking and a professor was physically attacked by some who were protesting the invitation. "It is all too common these days for people to try to immunize from criticism opinions that happen to be dominant in their particular communities," reads the statement. "Sometimes this is done by questioning the motives and thus stigmatizing those who dissent from prevailing opinions; or by disrupting their presentations; or by demanding that they be excluded from campus or, if they have already been invited, disinvited." Sometimes, it says, "students and faculty members turn their backs on speakers whose opinions they don't like or simply walk out and refuse to listen to those whose convictions offend their values. Of course, the right to peacefully protest, including on campuses, is sacrosanct. But before exercising that right, each of us should ask: Might it not be better to listen respectfully and try to learn from a speaker with whom I disagree? Might it better serve the cause of truth seeking to engage the speaker in frank civil discussion?" All of us "should be willing -- even eager -- to engage with anyone who is prepared to do business in the currency of truth-seeking discourse by offering reasons, marshaling evidence and making arguments," George and West wrote. "The more important the subject under discussion, the more willing we should be to listen and engage -- especially if the person with whom we are in conversation will challenge our deeply held -- even our most cherished and identity-

forming -- beliefs. "Such "an ethos," they conclude, "protects us against dogmatism and groupthink, both of which are toxic to the health of academic communities and to the functioning of democracies."... Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/03/16/ideological-odd-couple-robert-george-and-cornel-west-issue-joint-statement-against> The actual West-George statement is at: <http://jmp.princeton.edu/statement>

(Directions for those who want to sign are at link above.)

Faculty Rep Jim Chalfant on 20% Non-Resident Cap

Friday, March 17, 2017



We will post the remaining audios of the Regents meetings of March 15 and 16 in due course. However, it is worth taking note of the remarks of Faculty Representative and systemwide Academic Senate Chair Jim Chalfant to the Regents yesterday when the 20% cap was discussed. He pointed to the general downward direction of state support per student and the fact that non-state students in effect subsidize with their tuition the educations of in-state students. You can listen to his remarks below.

Summary from the [LA Times](#):

University of California regents expressed an array of concerns Thursday over a controversial proposal to limit the number of undergraduates from other states and countries to 20% of total systemwide enrollment...

Regents initially were scheduled to vote Thursday on the nonresident proposal, which UC unveiled this month to ease public controversy over its admissions practices and clear the way to receiving \$18.5 million in additional state funding that is tied to adoption of a limit. UC's proposed cap allows for some growth — nonresidents currently make up 16.5% of the system's 210,170 undergraduates — except at UCLA, UC San Diego and UC Berkeley. Those three campuses would be allowed to maintain but not increase their current percentages, which are higher than 20%. But regents delayed a vote until May and will continue discussions until then as some critics call for lower limits and others for no quota at all.

The debate Thursday underscored the deep concerns over the proposal. Regent Sherry Lansing fretted that the limit could deprive campuses with fewer out-of-state students, such as UC Riverside and UC Santa Cruz, of future opportunities to attract them and the extra tuition dollars they bring in. James Chalfant, chair of the UC Academic Senate, echoed that concern, saying the proposal would create "tiered campuses" because some would be able to bring in more nonresident tuition dollars than others. "We don't want to reinforce a policy of haves and have-nots ... and put them in competition with each other," Chalfant said. Regent Eloy Ortiz Oakley said the UC system should first make a better case to the state about its funding needs. He referred to nonresident tuition as "sugar water" and public funding as "protein," to stress the need for the state to beef up the UC system with more money. Others wanted to know how nonresident students affected campus diversity. Regent Gareth Elliott rejected adopting any nonresident policy at all.

But UC President Janet Napolitano reminded regents that state lawmakers required the UC system to set a limit before they released additional funding.

“Somehow, we’ve got to navigate our way through this and end up ... with the right answer,” she said. The 10-campus system quadrupled its nonresident enrollment between 2007 and 2016 to make up for steep state budget cuts following the recession. Although UC also increased the number of California students by 10% during that time, the growing reliance on nonresidents sparked a backlash from California families and legislators. Chancellors from UCLA and UC San Diego told regents how the additional money from nonresidents — who pay about \$27,000 more in annual tuition than their California counterparts — has helped pay for more faculty and courses as well as needed building repairs. UCLA, for instance, received \$145 million in nonresident tuition last year, which helped it make up significant state funding cuts, said Chancellor Gene Block. The money helped UCLA offer more courses, which reduced the average time needed to graduate to less than four years. It also helped UCLA manage rising costs for employee benefits and salaries... Full story at <http://www.latimes.com/local/education/la-me-edu-uc-regents-meeting-20170316-story.html> *Prof. Chalfant's remarks can be heard below:*

Listen to the Regents Meetings of the Afternoon of March 15, 2017

Saturday, March 18, 2017



Here is a summary (below), courtesy of the [Daily Bruin](#), of the March 15th meeting. We have already posted the audios of the morning segments.

The University of California Board of Regents, the governing body of the UC, discussed the cost of attendance, UC advocacy in state and federal government and student housing at UC Berkeley and UCLA, among other items, on the second day of its board meeting at UC San Francisco. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

- *The committee approved amendments about professional degree supplemental tuition, which would require programs to justify needs for tuition increases and make changes more predictable.*
- *The committee approved amendments to the faculty code of conduct which clarify the Chancellor's responsibilities in responding to alleged violations of the code and give the Chancellor more time to file disciplinary charges.*
- *The committee also approved proposals by representatives from UC Berkeley's Master of Civil and Environmental Engineering and UC Irvine's Master of Urban and Regional Planning to establish professional degree supplemental tuition for the first time in fall 2017.*
- *Christopher Carter, UC legislative director for research, presented the results of a recent survey on the cost of attendance, which found that aside from tuition and fees, costs have increased 4 percent across the UC system.*
- *The survey found that the cost of food and rent has increased while the cost of books and transportation has decreased.*
- *Regent Monica Lozano announced plans to create a working group comprised of representatives from the Regents, student affairs, all the offices of the chief financial officer and the UC Student Association to investigate how to address rising costs.*

Finance and Capital Strategies Committee

- *Steve Olsen, UCLA chief financial officer and vice chancellor, and Pete Angelis, assistant vice chancellor of UCLA Housing & Hospitality Services, presented five possible sites for construction of new residence halls and apartment complexes for undergraduate students.*

- *Regent Hadi Makarechian asked why UCLA wanted to wait until 2021 to finish building the units since they are self-financeable and there is a demand for the buildings. Olsen said because the construction would impact highly-congested areas, campus officials need to think through all the issues and discover whether some sites are more cost effective than others.*
- *The committee also discussed the housing situation at UC Berkeley. It also approved the creation of a nonprofit organization associated with UC Davis that would allow the camous to sell its wine, since the UC cannot hold an alcohol license.*

Public Engagement and Development Committee

- *The committee heard updates from UC officials about the impacts of the Affordable Care Act and the Republican replacement bill, the American Health Care Act, on UC medical centers. Officials said repealing the ACA and implementing a replacement would jeopardize \$4.6 billion in premium subsidies to more than 1.2 million Covered California enrollees. UC Health also said it will seek to ensure the continuation of affordable, comprehensive health coverage and protect academic medical centers' capacity to treat patients.*
- *Officials also updated the committee on the state budget process. They expressed support for many proposals within the governor's January budget proposal, except one that would phase out the Middle Class Scholarship program. They said higher education funding proposals could change in the May revision.*
- *The committee also recommended that the Board of Regents endorse The Campaign for UC San Diego, which seeks to raise \$2 billion to increase undergraduate scholarships, update teaching facilities and increase the number of endowed chairs.*

Governance and Compensation Committee

- *The committee approved an amendment to the Regents' Conflict of Interest policy that outlines requirements for documentation of conflicts of interest and training to avoid conflicts of interest.*
- *The committee also approved an amendment to UC Health market reference zones, which determine the competitiveness of pay for executives at UC medical centers.*

Source: <http://dailybruin.com/2017/03/15/uc-regents-recap-march-16/>

You can hear the afternoon discussions at the links below: and <https://archive.org/details/>
GovernanceCompensation

Listen to the Regents Meeting of March 16, 2017

Sunday, March 19, 2017



At the link at the bottom of this message, you will find the audio of the March 16, 2017 meeting of the full Board of Regents. We again archive it indefinitely since the Regents preserve their recordings for only one year, a limit without any reasonable rationale. The one-year policy is particularly outrageous since the original recordings are now being put on YouTube by the Regents. All they would have to do is *not* delete the recordings to make them indefinitely available.

Below is a summary of the meeting, some of which has appeared in an earlier post on this blog

UC regents debate enrollment limits on students from other states and countries, approve Berkeley chancellor

Teresa Watanabe [LA Times](#) 3-16-17

University of California regents expressed an array of concerns Thursday over a controversial proposal to limit the number of undergraduates from other states and countries to 20% of total systemwide enrollment.

The regents, meeting in San Francisco, also unanimously approved Carol T. Christ, a longtime UC Berkeley administrator and professor, as the next chancellor to lead the renowned but troubled public research university.

Regents initially were scheduled to vote Thursday on the nonresident proposal, which UC unveiled this month to ease public controversy over its admissions practices and clear the way to receiving \$18.5 million in additional state funding that is tied to adoption of a limit.

UC's proposed cap allows for some growth — nonresidents currently make up 16.5% of the system's 210,170 undergraduates — except at UCLA, UC San Diego and UC Berkeley. Those three campuses would be allowed to maintain but not increase their

current percentages, which are higher than 20%.

But regents delayed a vote until May and will continue discussions until then as some critics call for lower limits and others for no quota at all.

The debate Thursday underscored the deep concerns over the proposal.

Regent Sherry Lansing fretted that the limit could deprive campuses with fewer out-of-state students, such as UC Riverside and UC Santa Cruz, of future opportunities to attract them and the extra tuition dollars they bring in. James Chalfant, chair of the UC Academic Senate, echoed that concern, saying the proposal would create “tiered campuses” because some would be able to bring in more nonresident tuition dollars than others.

“We don’t want to reinforce a policy of haves and have-nots ... and put them in competition with each other,” Chalfant said.

Regent Eloy Ortiz Oakley said the UC system should first make a better case to the state about its funding needs. He referred to nonresident tuition as “sugar water” and public funding as “protein,” to stress the need for the state to beef up the UC system with more money.

Others wanted to know how nonresident students affected campus diversity. Regent Gareth Elliott rejected adopting any nonresident policy at all.

But UC President Janet Napolitano reminded regents that state lawmakers required the UC system to set a limit before they released additional funding.

“Somehow, we’ve got to navigate our way through this and end up ... with the right answer,” she said.

The 10-campus system quadrupled its nonresident enrollment between 2007 and 2016 to make up for steep state budget cuts following the recession. Although UC also increased the number of California students by 10% during that time, the growing reliance on nonresidents sparked a backlash from California families and legislators.

Chancellors from UCLA and UC San Diego told regents how the additional money from nonresidents — who pay about \$27,000 more in annual tuition than their California counterparts — has helped pay for more faculty and courses as well as needed building repairs.

UCLA, for instance, received \$145 million in nonresident tuition last year, which helped it make up significant state funding cuts, said Chancellor Gene Block. The money helped UCLA offer more courses, which reduced the average time needed to graduate to less than four years. It also helped UCLA manage rising costs for employee benefits and salaries.

“This really made up the hole in UCLA’s budget,” Block said.

Regent Richard Blum added that the university richly benefits from international students who study at UC campuses and return home to become successful business and political leaders. At a UC Berkeley reunion in Hong Kong, he said, 500 people showed up.

"It's amazing how many people — successful leaders, heads of companies — still talk about Berkeley and may give back one way or another," he said.

On other matters, the regents were firmly united.

They approved Christ as the new UC Berkeley chancellor "enthusiastically and unanimously," as Board Chairwoman Monica Lozano put it after the vote.

Christ, currently Berkeley's interim executive vice chancellor and provost, will take the helm July 1. She will succeed Nicholas Dirks, who announced his resignation last year following widespread criticism over his handling of sexual misconduct scandals, the budget deficit and what many regarded as a distant and disengaged leadership style.

Christ, 72, will earn the same salary Dirks did: \$531,939 annually. She has spent more than 30 years at Berkeley as a professor and administrator and also served as president of Smith College for a decade.

Napolitano told regents that Christ, the 11th chancellor and first woman to lead the 149-year-old campus, was "a remarkable person, a visionary and a first."

"Dr. Christ has a way with making things better. She builds strong relationships, and trust, with diverse groups and diverse individuals, and then forms consensus and finds solutions," Napolitano said.

Blum said Christ's collaborative style and intimate knowledge of Berkeley's culture was just what the university needed.

"Berkeley is a troubled campus in terms of people learning to get along," he said shortly before the vote. "It is not going well, and we needed somebody from the inside who understood the place to straighten it out."

Christ, speaking to reporters after the vote, said she would focus on Berkeley's multimillion-dollar budget deficit, the student housing crunch, undergraduate education and faculty issues to help the renowned public research university through what she called its worst difficulties in 50 years.

Christ said she would aim to enhance Berkeley's tradition of "excellence and access."

"It is Berkeley's DNA," she said.

In other actions, the regents approved changes to rules on faculty sexual misconduct, including eliminating time limits to file complaints.

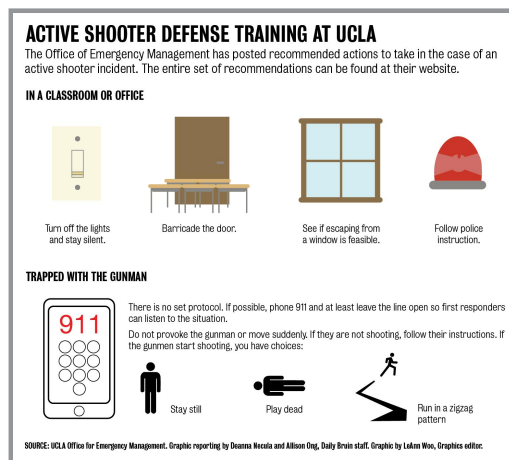
They also approved the UC system's first policy that would impose sanctions on regents found to have violated university rules on ethics and sexual misconduct, even outside their university roles.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/local/education/la-me-edu-uc-regents-meeting-20170316-story.html>

You can hear the audio of the March 16 meeting at:

The way we live now

Monday, March 20, 2017



From the Bruin:

UCLA has implemented new campus safety initiatives since the murder-suicide in June, including trainings with updated protocol for active shooter incidents and an improved Bruin Alert system...

Stephen Yeazell, chair of the Campus Safety Task Force, said OEM has also updated faculty trainings with active shooter protocol. About 50 people attended the first session Jan. 25.*

Garg said OEM emailed all faculty Tuesday instructing them how to use recently installed electronic emergency locks. As of January, they have been installed in 192 general assignment classrooms such as Moore 100 and La Kretz 110. A button on the lock flashes red when pressed to indicate the door is inaccessible from the outside; when pressed again, the button turns green...OEM has also implemented other measures for campus improvement, said Director Art Kirkland. For example, Bruin Alert – the campus' emergency notification system – added the capability for two-way communication since the murder-suicide last year. Students can now click on embedded links within the alert to confirm receipt of the message, or share their status during an emergency. In addition, users can respond to Bruin Alerts with a "1" for "I'm safe" or a "2" for "I'm not safe" during emergencies. If someone sends "2," OEM can communicate with that individual to gauge location, situation and course of action. Kirkland added that Bruin Alert now allows subscription of multiple emails and phone numbers to the system, which would allow parents and significant others to receive updates in an emergency situation. Additionally, OEM designed an application, called Bruins Safe, to assist students, faculty and staff campuswide with emergency protocol and community awareness, he said. OEM plans to formally reveal the app at the beginning of spring quarter. The app includes additional features for everyday safety: a tab for calling campus escorts and a tab that lets people track their friends' GPS location as they walk. It will also alert students if their friend has disconnected. OEM is also making changes to campus infrastructure, Kirkland said, including an outdoor siren and speaker system for emergency poles, and digital signs for classrooms that will display Bruin Alert messages in an emergency. They expect 90 percent of all classrooms to receive the digital signs by the start of fall quarter. Full story

at <http://dailybruin.com/2017/03/20/ucla-implements-new-procedures-systems-to-improve-campus-safety/> --- *Office of Emergency Management:
<https://www.emergency.ucla.edu/> .

Free how?

Monday, March 20, 2017



*A California lawmaker wants to tax millionaires to provide a free education for residents at the state's public colleges and universities – the second proposal put forth in as many weeks to address the soaring cost of a higher education. Assembly Bill 1356, by Assemblywoman Susan Talamantes Eggman, would add a 1 percent tax on annual California household incomes of \$1 million or more, to be placed in a financial aid fund. **The tax would generate an estimated \$2.2 billion*** annually, according to the Stockton Democrat, which could be combined with existing aid programs to cover the cost of tuition and fees for in-state students at the University of California, California State University and California community colleges... Full story at <http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article139685303.html> ---*

**Note: The current state allocation to UC alone is \$3.3 billion. It's roughly matched by tuition (at all levels, grad and undergrad). But then there is CSU and the community colleges. Hard to see how \$2.2 billion covers all of that. A puzzle. Also a puzzle is that the bill cited in the article seems to have to do with protecting immigrants, not taxes and tuition.*

When you gotta go

Monday, March 20, 2017



Ignore the fighting words between state lawmakers: California's ban on publicly funded travel to "bathroom bill" states won't block UCLA's trip to the Big Dance this week. The Bruins are punching their tickets to the Sweet 16 in Memphis even though Tennessee is on California's list of no-go destinations under a new law that prohibits travel to states with policies that Golden State leaders consider to be discriminatory. A UCLA spokesman told The Bee in December that the school will not schedule athletic games in banned states. Since then, UCLA has decided that it won't "deny our student-athletes the right to participate in postseason play," according to a report in the Wichita Eagle. That means the campus is not letting the travel ban stand in the way of the NCAA tournament. The California law, adopted in response to a North Carolina measure that requires people using restrooms in government buildings to choose the one that corresponds to their gender at birth, has triggered conflicting interpretations about how universities should apply it to college sports. Tennessee made the list because of a law allowing therapists to deny services to gay and transgender clients. On one hand, leaders from UC and California State University campuses have said they will not schedule games in states on the banned list. On the other, they have noted that they do not use public funds for certain athletic events, and they retain the choice of attending marquee events. Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/the-state-worker/article139666758.html>

Signature events

Tuesday, March 21, 2017



A letter from many university and college presidents went to President Trump on March 16 urging protections for DREAM students. You can find the letter at:

<http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Documents/Letter-From-Institutions-to-President-Trump-on-Dreamers.pdf>

Among the signatures:

University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Merced
University of California, Riverside
University of California, Santa Cruz

Not found:

UC-San Francisco
UC-San Diego
UC-Santa Barbara

Yours truly noticed that there was no signature from UC systemwide and thought it was because UC was a system, not a single entity. But then he found University of Illinois System on the list of signatures. There may be explanations.

Now you don't see them; now you do

Wednesday, March 22, 2017



Berkeley's 20,000 disappearing videos seem to be coming back. This blog earlier noted that some independent entity could preserve them. It now seems to be happening: [Excerpt from Daily Cal]

LBRY, a content sharing and publishing platform, copied 20,000 lectures from UC Berkeley's YouTube channel before they were deleted and will make them publicly available beginning in April. UC Berkeley announced in early March that it would restrict public access to legacy recorded classroom lectures, or Course Capture, after the Department of Justice determined that the publicly available lectures were not up to standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Jeremy Kauffman, founder and CEO of LBRY, said it was unfortunate that the campus was forced to take down the lectures and that his company believed it would be better if they were still available without subtitles than not available at all. "What motivated our community is that we saw information disappearing that shouldn't disappear and our technology is designed to keep information around," Kauffman said. The videos being uploaded onto LBRY currently do not have subtitles, but Kauffman said he'd be happy to work with anyone interested in collaborating with their company to provide them. The lawsuit, which was filed in 2014 by viewers unaffiliated with UC Berkeley, alleged many aspects of the Course Captures were in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, including inaccessible video captions, and concluded that those with disabilities are denied equal access to UC Berkeley's services. After its investigation, the DOJ found "significant portions of UC Berkeley's online content in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which states equality must be granted on all public forums... Full story at <http://www.dailycal.org/2017/03/21/lbry-public-sharing-platform-uploads-20000-deleted-uc-berkeley-lectures/>

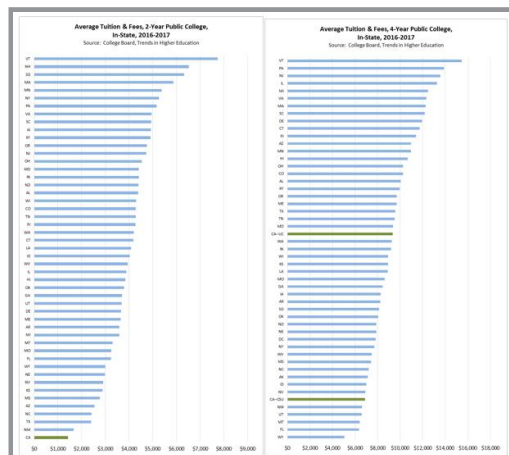
CSU Trustees Voted To Increase Tuition By 5 Percent

Wednesday, March 22, 2017



Despite public outcries from students and elected officials, the California State University Board of Trustees voted Wednesday to raise tuition by 5 percent for the next school year to address an expected shortfall in funding from the state. The vote was 11-8, with Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and state schools Superintendent Tom Torlakson -- all ex-officio members of the board -- among those dissenting. The trustees approved two amendments -- one to rescind the hike if sufficient state funding comes through, and another calling for reports over the next two years detailing how the additional dollars are spent... Full story at:

<http://patch.com/california/santamonica/s/g2hzs/update-csu-trustees-voted-to-increase-tuition-by-5-percent> The combo of UC and CSU planning tuition increases will likely trigger political reactions in the legislature. But the legislature is facing possible major cuts in "Obamacare" aid. Whether it will want to come up with more for higher ed while under that threat is unknown. And whether the governor would permit it is another unknown. On the other hand, political flailing can be harmful. And worth noting:



[Click to enlarge.]

Apart from that

Thursday, March 23, 2017



University of California President Janet Napolitano is headed to Mexico next week to reassure leaders there that the public research university remains committed to academic collaboration — *even if some of it, such as climate change research, is at risk under the Trump administration.*

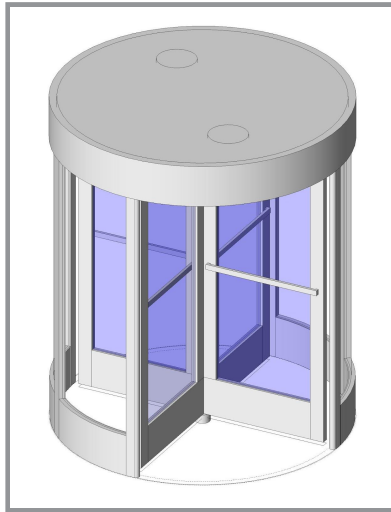
In an interview Wednesday , Napolitano said she would build on the UC-Mexico Initiative she launched in 2014 *despite President Trump's plans to build a border wall, increase immigration enforcement and reduce federal research funding.*

She said she planned to tell Mexicans during three days of meetings starting next Wednesday , " *Regardless of what is happening* federally, the University of California remains open to academic partnerships with Mexico."...

Full story at <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-uc-napolitano-mexico-20170323-story.html>

New Chancellor; New Scandal at Berkeley

Friday, March 24, 2017



As one chancellor revolves out, and another revolves in at UC-Berkeley, a new sexual harassment scandal arises:

It's more bad news for both a discipline and an institution that have been plagued by reports of sexual harassment and assault in recent years: a former research assistant is suing the University of California for failing to properly address her report of misconduct against a star philosopher on the Berkeley campus...

Full story at: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2017/03/24/berkeley-again-accused-protecting-reputation-star-professor-instead-acting-reports>

Agreement reached with Teamsters

Friday, March 24, 2017



Blog readers - if they have been listening to the audios from our posts on recent Regents meetings - that there have been protests by Teamsters over an open contract negotiation with UC. However, a tentative deal has now been reached:

UC, Teamsters Local 2010 reach provisional labor agreement

By Ahna Straube | March 23, 2017 | [Daily Cal](#)

The University of California has reached a provisional labor agreement with Teamsters Local 2010 on a contract that would cover more than 11,000 clerical employees, according to a UC press release issued Thursday.

The contract will be effective through March 31, 2022, upon approval by Teamster membership, the press release stated.

Teamsters is a union of more than 14,000 employees within the UC system and is affiliated with 1.4 million members throughout the United States and Canada, according to the Teamsters website. The union's mission is to gain better wages, benefits and working conditions for its members.

Elise Magno, a union representative for Teamsters, said the union comprises library assistants, police dispatchers, early childhood teachers, cashiers and administrative support.

In February, Teamsters protested unfair wages and a new 401(k)-style retirement plan outside UC executive offices in Downtown Oakland. Prior to the protest, the UC Board of Regents had approved a new retirement tier that included a "capped" version of the existing pension.

Magno said Teamsters has been working toward a tentative agreement with the university since last April. According to Magno, the union and the university conducted negotiations last Wednesday. She added that there was "a lot of movement" between both entities.

"I hold the local union's opinion (that) this is a democratic process," Magno said.

According to the press release, the proposed contract includes an annual 3 percent wage increase, a \$1,200 bonus per clerical employee, a \$25 limit on any rate increase to Kaiser Permanente and Health Net Blue & Gold health insurance plans and the continuation of current retirement benefits for employees hired before July 1, 2016.

"We are pleased to have reached an agreement that maintains competitive wages and benefits for our clerical colleagues and recognizes the important role they play in keeping our campuses and medical centers running," said Dwaine Duckett, UC vice president for systemwide human resources, in the press release.

Teamsters-represented employees are expected to vote on the provisional agreement in the next three weeks, according to Magno.

Source: <http://www.dailycal.org/2017/03/23/uc-teamsters-local-2010-reach-provisional-labor-agreement/>

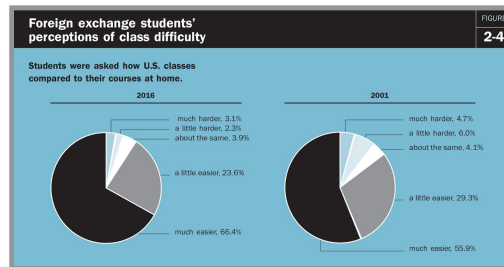
Note: The union's summary of the tentative agreement indicates that it accepts the lower-tier pension arrangement for new hires that the Regents approved. Some of the protests in the past focused on the pension. The summary states:

New hires will have choice of the defined benefit pension or defined contribution plan, just like non-represented employees and members of the following Unions: IX & LX-Units: AFT; DX-Unit: UAPD/AFSCME; K2-Unit - San Francisco BTC; K5-Unit: IUOE; KB-Unit: Alameda County BTC; K8 & K9 & KM-Units-SETC.

Source: http://teamsters2010.org/Campaigns/Ratification/TASummary_3-20-17.pdf [p. 4]

Preparation for college?

Saturday, March 25, 2017



[Click to enlarge]

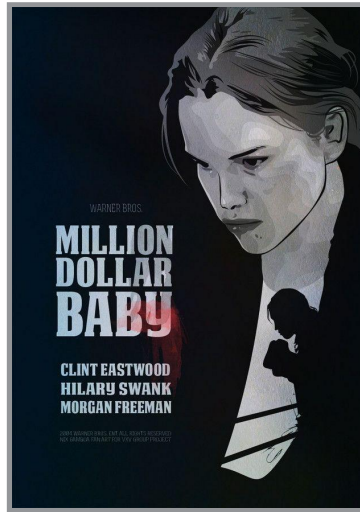
The Brookings Institution reports on a survey of foreign exchange students attending U.S. high schools and their perceptions of whether the American curriculum was harder or easier. Two thirds said it was much easier, an increase since 2001. See the chart above.

You can find the study at:

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/2017-brown-center-report-part-ii-survey-of-foreign-exchange-students/>

Cool Million

Saturday, March 25, 2017



University of California officials spent nearly \$1 million investigating former UC Davis Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi, a probe that ended in her resignation last August and a deal that allowed her to take a year off at full pay before returning to a faculty job, according to figures released Friday. The four-month investigation was ordered last April by UC President Janet Napolitano after disclosures in The Sacramento Bee about Katehi's acceptance of lucrative corporate board seats and her use of university funds to clean up her image online. The final investigative report was released Aug. 9, the same day Katehi agreed to resign after fighting for months to save her job running one of the nation's premiere universities. The probe by the Orrick law firm was headed by two former U.S. attorneys from Northern California – Melinda Haag and McGregor Scott – and included interviews with 55 individuals, the compilation of 2.7 million emails and documents and a review of more than 67,000 emails and other electronic documents...

Full story at <http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article140652933.html>

Bad Fit?

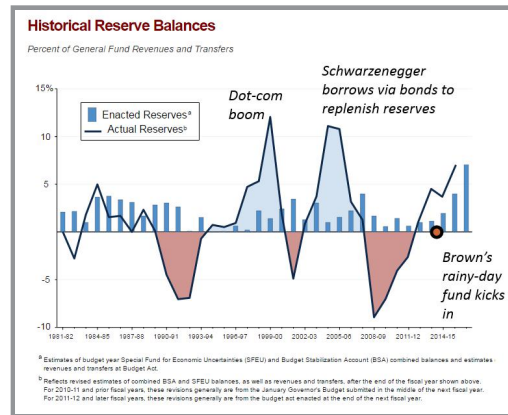
Saturday, March 25, 2017



UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks improperly accepted free university benefits, including membership to the campus fitness center, two years of personal training sessions and the unauthorized transfer of exercise equipment from the public gym to his private residence, a university investigation has found. Overall, Dirks failed to pay for \$4,990 in fees for the gym membership and personal training and enjoyed the private use of a Precor Cross Trainer elliptical exercise machine worth between \$3,500 and \$4,000, according to findings of the heavily redacted report released Friday. UC ethics rules bar employees from the unauthorized use of campus resources or facilities or the “entanglement” of private interests with UC obligations. The investigation, performed for the UC Office of the President by an outside firm, Public Interest Investigations Inc., concluded that Dirks violated those rules and concluded that the allegations against him by an unnamed whistleblower were founded. Dirks, through a spokesman, declined to comment. UC spokeswoman Dianne Klein said Dirks apologized and repaid the money owed even before the investigation was completed in September... Full story at <http://www.latimes.com/local/education/la-essential-education-updates-southern-uc-berkeley-chancellor-nicholas-dirks-1490390221-htmlstory.html>

Reserves

Sunday, March 26, 2017



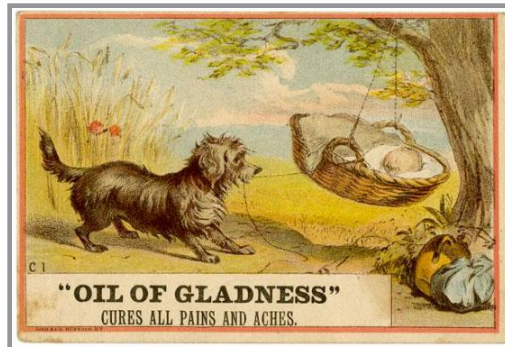
[Click to enlarge] The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) produced a history of the reserves in the general fund.* There are now actually two reserves: the regular reserve, and what is sometimes called the rainy-day fund. The latter was actually created under Schwarzenegger but never amounted to anything until Brown's ballot proposition began to fill it. Yours truly has added some commentary in *italics* to the LAO chart above. As can be seen, the ups and downs of actual reserves follows the business cycle. You can see the recession of the early 1980s, the recession of the early 1990s (which hit California especially hard because of the end of Cold War spending that occurred at the same time), the dot-com bust, and the Great Recession of 2008-09. Note that the planned (budgeted) end-of-year reserve is always positive (or at least non-negative), even though the actual reserve goes into the red when the economy has a downturn.** If there is a take-away from the chart, it is that even with large reserves, it only takes a couple of years to blow them out in a downturn.

* <http://www.lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3630>

**During the course of a fiscal year, the reserve in the general fund is often in the red as the seasonality of spending and tax receipts don't match. When that happens, the state controller borrows from funds outside the general fund and, if necessary, does short-term borrowing externally.

Patent Medicine of the 21st Century

Monday, March 27, 2017



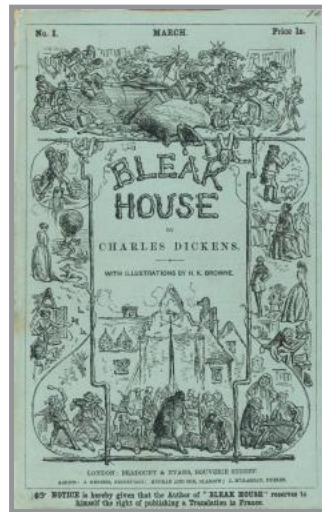
Things have evidently become more complicated and contentious than back in the day:

In the final days of 2016, the Regents of the University of California, which governs the University of California (UC) system, filed a lawsuit against a former graduate student from UC Santa Cruz (UCSC). At the center of the legal spat is the proper assignation of a series of patents covering DNA sequencing technologies, which UC alleges were developed while the inventor was under an agreement obliging him to assign those patents to UC. The suit has been filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California (N.D. Cal.)...

Full story at <http://www.ipwatchdog.com/2017/03/26/university-california-assignment-patents-former-grad-student/id=79687/>

It's bleak to me

Tuesday, March 28, 2017



To this non-expert, non-lawyer, the never-ending saga of who is to be credited with the patent rights to CRISPR gene-editing technology seems reminiscent of Charles Dickens' Bleak House tale of interminable litigation:

The European Patent Office (EPO) yesterday (March 23) announced its intention to award a broad-strokes patent for CRISPR gene-editing technology to the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Vienna, and Emmanuelle Charpentier (formerly of the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research). The claims include the use of CRISPR across prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells and organisms, hitting upon the point of contention in a recent patent interference decision in the United States. In that case, the US Patent and Trademark Office's Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) denied UC Berkeley the rights over the use of the technology in eukaryotes—the money-making application for CRISPR—leaving that intellectual property with the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard.

"We are excited that this patent will issue based on the foundational research we published with Emmanuelle Charpentier and the rest of our team," Jennifer Doudna, the leader of the UC Berkeley contingent of the international team, said in a statement. "We look forward to the continued applications of gene-editing technology to solve problems in human health and agriculture." According to EPO procedures, the international team's patent is all but granted (a few logistical details, such as finalizing the text and paying fees, remain to be settled). "Substantively, the decision is made," said Catherine Coombes, a senior patent attorney with HGF Limited in the U.K. who last year wrote an opinion for The Scientist on the CRISPR patent situation in Europe. "The EPO, by granting this [patent], is not being swayed by the PTAB decision in the U.S. . . . The claims are very broad." The Broad Institute will now have nine months to file its opposition to the EPO patent's claims. Coombes said she expects that will happen. "We can, of course, expect multiple oppositions upon grant," Coombes said. "No doubt, these will concentrate heavily on why UC Berkeley shouldn't be entitled to their earliest [filing] date" for all the claims listed. Unlike the parallel process in the U.S., the UC Berkeley-Vienna-Helmholtz Centre team will have multiple opportunities to amend its claims, noted Kevin Noonan, a biotech expert and partner at the Chicago-based IP law

firm McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff. The team “could ultimately get more narrow claims,” he said. If that’s the case, he added, the situation in Europe could end up the way the US IP landscape is expected to play out, with UC Berkeley owning rights to CRISPR’s use in prokaryotes, and the Broad Institute owning CRISPR rights in eukaryotes. Otherwise, the UC Berkeley team could end up with intellectual property rights over CRISPR technology in both prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells. The EPO’s decisions should not have any impact on future proceedings at the USPTO, said Noonan. “The US courts and patents laws don’t care what the Europeans do,” he said... Full story at <http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/48987/title/UC-Berkeley-Receives-CRISPR-Patent-in-Europe/>

Dirks' Last Test?

Wednesday, March 29, 2017



It appears that Berkeley Chancellor Dirks (yes, he's still chancellor until June 30) will have one more test before exiting. The recent event featuring Milo Yiannopoulos didn't go well, to say the least. Now there is this:

The Berkeley College Republicans and BridgeCal have invited conservative author Ann Coulter to speak on campus April 27 to cover the topic of illegal immigration. Coulter, a self-identified "right-wing polemicist" and 12-time New York Times best-selling author, is known for her controversial books, including "If Democrats Had Any Brains, They'd Be Republicans" and "In Trump We Trust." BCR spokesperson Naweed Tahmas and BridgeCal founder and co-president Pranav Jandhyala said that BCR approached BridgeCal with the idea of inviting Coulter to campus. When BCR heard that BridgeCal — a campus club that facilitates discussions among students with contrasting ideologies — planned to host a speaker series on illegal immigration in the coming months, BCR proposed that BridgeCal also invite a conservative speaker to offer an alternative perspective on the issue, according to Jandhyala. "We do believe that Ms. Coulter is the perfect individual to engage in this debate about illegal immigration," Tahmas said. "I think there's definitely a void in conservative thought at UC Berkeley."... Full story at <http://www.dailycal.org/2017/03/28/right-wing-author-ann-coulter-invited-speak-uc-berkeley-april/>

Crime Last Friday

Thursday, March 30, 2017



UCLA police Wednesday identified a suspect in a sexual battery on campus and circulated the man's photograph (shown on right). The crime occurred about 1:30 p.m. last Friday, according to the UCLA Police Department.

Babak Rahimzadeh allegedly approached the victim near the third-floor restroom of the Public Affairs Building, asked for directions, then grabbed her and sexually battered her, police said. Police circulated a photo of the 54-year-old suspect, described as being of Middle Eastern descent, 5 feet 8 inches tall and 185 pounds, with brown hair.

Anyone knowing his whereabouts was urged to call UCLA police at (310) 825-1491, or Detective Chobanian at (310) 825-9371.

Source: <http://mynews1a.com/crime/2017/03/29/sex-attackers-picture-do-you-know-this-suspect-in-ucla-crime/>

Note: There is normally a fair amount of foot traffic around the location of the crime during the workday since the Luskin School administrative offices are there. However, last Friday was the end of exam week and fewer people than usual were likely around.

Found money

Friday, March 31, 2017



UC Law Schools Awarded Millions After Bank's Loss in Court

Karen Sloan, The Recorder, March 29, 2017

Bank of America's "heartless" treatment of two California mortgage holders may be a financial boon to five Golden State law schools. A federal bankruptcy judge last week awarded \$45 million in punitive damages and more than \$1 million in actual damages to a Sacramento-area couple whose home was wrongfully foreclosed upon. At the same time, the judge directed the bulk of the punitive damages to go to the five law schools housed at University of California campuses as well as a pair of consumer rights legal organizations.

University of California, Berkeley School of Law; the University of California, Davis School of Law; the University of California, Hastings College of the Law; the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law; and the University of California, Irvine School of Law would each received \$4 million earmarked for consumer law education and direct legal services—minus any taxes owed by the plaintiffs on the award—under a March 23 opinion signed by Judge Christopher Klein of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of California. The National Consumer Law Center and the National Consumer Bankruptcy Rights Center are both to receive \$10 million after taxes. The remaining \$5 million in punitive damages goes to the plaintiffs.

"It caught me out of the blue," said UC Davis Law Dean Kevin Johnson. "I was very surprised. This doesn't usually happen."

Johnson was unaware of the case—and the windfall for his campus—until UC Irvine Law Dean Erwin Chemerinsky alerted his fellow UC deans to Klein's ruling last week. David Faigman, dean at UC Hastings, also said the award was a pleasant surprise. "In a sense, what the court is saying is when a defendant has behaved badly, the costs associated with that is providing resources to support legal education to create protectors so that other, future defendants don't behave badly," Faigman said. "And if they do, they'll get caught."

The bank's "high degree of reprehensibility" in the case called for punitive damages that would attract the attention of the bank's board of directors and serve as a deterrent, Klein found. The amount owed to the plaintiffs for lost wages, emotional distress, and their portion of the punitive damages would merely be seen as the cost of doing business for the banking behemoth, he wrote in the opinion. Hence, the majority of the \$45 million

award will go to organizations and law schools that can help prevent banks for taking advantage of consumers—an unusual provision.

"By channeling to these public academic and consumer advocacy institutions the societal portion of legitimate punitive damages, to be earmarked for consumer law purposes, this court is able to fashion a punitive damages remedy that addresses the enormity of the situation," Klein wrote.

In a statement from Bank of America, the company expressed regret that plaintiffs Erik and Renée Sundquist had a "challenging experience" with their mortgage.

"We believe some of the court's rulings are unprecedented and unsupported, and **we plan to appeal**," the bank's statement reads. Dennise Henderson, a Sacramento solo practitioner who represented the Sundquists, said she was pleased with Klein's ruling. "Generally, I'm thrilled," she said in an interview Wednesday. "Bank of America has been exposed."

But Henderson expressed reservations about Klein's allocation of the bulk of punitive damages to the law schools and consumer protection organizations, in part because her clients had no voice in deciding where the money will go. California's public law schools engage in some good public interest legal work, she said, but they also produce lawyers who go on to represent large banks against consumers like her clients. The underlying problem is that most lawyers won't take cases like the Sundquists' to trial and face off against the banks' teams of Big Law attorneys. (Bank of America was represented by attorneys from Reed Smith in the Sundquist case.)

Johnson said preliminary ideas for UC Davis' funds from the suit include an endowed chair in consumer law, and a recurring consumer law conference, perhaps in collaboration with the other UC law schools. Hastings is mulling the addition of professors with consumer protection expertise, or grants to students who do consumer protection work during their summers, Faigman said.

Source: <http://www.therecorder.com/id=1202782417388/UC-Law-Schools-Awarded-Millions-After-Banks-Loss-in-Court>



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